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PRESIDENT ALFONSIN LEAVES 21 JANUARY FOR INDIA

PY211850 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1809 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (TELAM) -- As scheduled, the TC91 Boeing 707 aircraft of the Argentine Air Force, which is taking President Alfonsin and his entourage to India, with a stopover in Nairobi (Kenya), took off from Ezeiza International Airport at 1500.

Stops Over in Brazil

PY220222 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0011 GMT 22 Jan 85

[By TELAM special correspondent Miguel Sintas]

[Excerpt] Recife, 21 Jan (TELAM) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin's plane arrived at the airport in Trecife, Pernambuco State, shortly after 1950 local time. The Argentine president was welcomed by Roberto Magalaes, governor of Pernambuco State, who relayed to Alfonsin a message from Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves.

PENA RESIGNS AS INTELLIGENCE SECRETARIAT CHIEF

PY201924 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Jan 85 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- Roberto Pena has resigned as head of the Argentine Intelligence Secretariat (SIDE) and has been replaced by Hector Rossi, currently director of the federal penitentiary service, reliable sources said yesterday. Pena, a lawyer and prominent Radical, is to accompany President Raul Alfonsin on his trip to India and Greece, taking up his new duties immediately on his return to Buenos Aires, the sources added. Pena had previously informed the president that he wished to resign and be appointed to other duties.

1984 MEAT EXPORT FIGURE REFLECTS 10-YEAR LOW

PY161040 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] (NA) -- Argentine meat exports in 1984 totalled 248,000 tons valued at 299.7 million dollars. This is a drop of 40.24 and 37.85 percent respectively compared to 1983, according to figures revealed by the National Meat Board. It adds that meat exports rose considerably by 28 percent in December as compared to November, but in any case, the volume of exports during 1984 was the lowest in the past 10 years, with the exception of 1975.

Export increases during the last month of the year coincided with the start of canned meat exports to Cuba while the decrease was due in part to the retraction of Soviet purchase, as this country left off buying from Argentina during the last five months of the year. In accordance with the five-year (1981-85) bilateral contract, Russia has to buy 90,000 tons of meat per year from Argentina, but last year this figure was reduced to 49,000 tons.

The drop in the tonnage exported caused a decrease in the sales revenue and this meant a loss of 182.5 million dollars. Meat exports which in 1983 brought in 482.2 million dollars, were down to 299.7 million dollars last year, a drop of 37.85 percent according to provisional figures. The fact that prices increased by an average of four cents was not sufficient to balance income. The average price for meat in 1984 was 1,208 dollars per ton. Main buyers last year continued to be the United States, the European Common Market, the Soviet Union, and Israel.

The meat board reports that besides the drop of purchases by the Soviet Union, a great deal less meat was sold to the EC and Israel, and no tinned meat went to the Egyptian market or to the promising Algerian market. Less meat was also shipped to Africa and Middle East countries. The board stresses that the volume of 248,000 tons sold last year was the lowest since 1967 and only approaches the 289,000 tons exported in 1974 and 262,000 in 1975, two years in which the world was still feeling the effects of the 1973 oil crisis.

18 JANUARY COUP ATTEMPT THWARTED BY MILITARY

PY181829 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] At 1130 today Interior Ministry Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez officially announced that there had been a new coup attempt. The report was immediately disseminated by Radio Panamericana.

[Begin Sanchez recording] The coup that was to take place early this morning has been suppressed, thanks to [words indistinct] action of some Army division commanders. Officers who have been discharged from the Army were seeking the support of their comrades in arms on active service in those Army divisions in order to cause strife in the country. I am going to give a couple of names. Colonel Saravia was acting from Santa Cruz, traveling to La Paz and Cochabamba, making contacts with a certain organization, and making telephone calls. The vice president's former aide-de-camp did the same, as well as other officers who had also been discharged from the service. It is absolutely certain that they succeeded in gathering funds for the coup and that those funds were distributed yesterday in Santa Cruz among some officers on active duty whose names will probably be published by the Armed Forces Command. [end recording]

That was the official report on the new coup attempt that has been thwarted by the military command and the Interior Ministry. The ringleaders have not been detained, which means that they will continue to stir up rebellion as long as they are at large.

Questioned by Radio Panamericana, Gustavo Sanchez also referred to the report that the government has pressured leaders of the nationalist Democratic Action not to hold their rally to proclaim the party's candidates. Sanchez categorically denied the report.

[Begin recording] That is not true. All parties legally (?constituted) in the country have all liberties granted by law to pursue the activities of their organization and political campaigns. The government is in no way trying to (?hinder) them. Those accusations are absolutely untrue. President Siles' government respects the rights of all citizens, and this can be seen in the press. I believe that too many people are trying to invent things and to create more problems than those the government is already facing. It seems that some politicians do not want peace to prevail in this country, and peace is necessary to hold the elections. [end recording]

Gustavo Sanchez also referred to the U.S. decision to deny economic aid to Bolivia because of the ineffectiveness of our campaign to eradicate drug trafficking. Gustavo Sanchez, who has led several anti-drug operations, said that much has been done with the few resources available to the country to face the powerful drug trafficking criminals.

[Begin recording] Ambassador Corr knows that this is a blatant lie. Efforts to fight drug trafficking are being made with all that the Bolivian police have at their disposal. If this were not true, we would not have been able to confiscate 2 tons of the drug in less than 4 months, and we would not have (?confiscated) about a dozen planes. What is it they want? We cannot think of fighting peasants, although they are in fact an important part of coca leaf production. The production of the drug is a very different problem, but I do not believe that we will harm the drug traffickers by punishing the coca leaf producers. The traffickers are the ones who are really causing the problem. However, the countries interested in eradicating drug trafficking must effectively (?aid) Bolivia, which is a poor country going through a very acute crisis. [end recording]

Former Colonels Involved

PY181807 La Paz Radio Illimani in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Interior Ministry Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez has revealed that the government smashed a coup attempt early this morning. Retired military officers may have been involved in it. Sanchez said that the former military leaders, among whom he mentioned former Colonels Rolando Saravia and Luis Arraya, had tried to get some officers on active duty to join their destabilizing plans. He said that his assertion is supported by documents gathered during investigations the government has carried out through its security agencies.

He explained that in the particular case of Saravia, he is a former member of the Armed Forces who sought asylum in Brazil last year and is now operating between the cities of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz in an effort to recruit reinforcements for his subversive movement.

Sanchez also reported that in the past few hours two persons were arrested in the city of Cochabamba. They were handling the funds necessary to get some Army officers to join the movement. He said that the Armed Forces commanders have adopted all the necessary measures to ensure tranquillity within the country.

Other Officials Named

PY182200 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2130 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] La Paz, 18 Jan (EFE) -- Interior Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez has reported that thanks to the attitude assumed by some Army division commanders a new plot for staging a coup d'etat in Bolivia, in which Bolivian military men that have taken refuge in Spain are involved, has been foiled.

Police Lieutenant Colonel German Linares and Army Lieutenant Cesar Campos, who have taken refuge in Spain since October 1983 because of the involvement in the kidnapping of President Hernan Siles Zuazo in June 1983, were named today by Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo as being involved in this coup plot.

GEN GUZMAN FRICKE PROCLAMATION DENOUCES UDP

PY220315 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Jan 85 p 10

[Advertisement by General Ernesto Guzman Fricke: "The Armed Forces' Proclamation"]

[Excerpts] Fellow comrades in arms: The distressing situation that the fatherland is currently enduring and the even more distressing prospects that seem to lie ahead of it compel those of us who have been trained and educated to defend with sacrifice the most cherished interests of the fatherland to immediate reflection and action, thus fulfilling our solemn commitment to defend it from any enemy that may threaten its safety, stability, well-being, and integrity. For the sake of our honor, we must fulfill our sacred commitment with courage, free of weaknesses, hesitation, and delays, because the enemy's destructive work has made progress and we cannot allow him to advance a single step more if we do not want to be sorry -- as we are now because of the loss of our outlet to the sea, of the Acre and Chaco regions, of foreign respect -- and run the risk of severe judgment in the future for not having fulfilled our duty.

At present the nation is enduring a chaotic and decadent situation only comparable to the bloodcurdling situation that prevailed between 1952 and 1964, when those politicians, who are now governing us and offering to save us, revealed their deplorable and infamous qualities.

This economic chaos has been achieved by the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] government, whose executive branch -- after the electoral campaign, which was characterized by an unreal and demagogic euphoria -- was confronted with our real situation. Aware of its incapacity to find solutions to our problems, feeling the need to adopt a policy which granted it the national and international sympathy and support that would allow it to remain in power, completely disregarding the future of the fatherland, and in a gesture of political incapacity and irresponsibility, the UDP adopted a unique democratic form of government -- misgovernment -- thus establishing anarchy and indiscipline in the country. Sheltered by the support thus obtained from our uneducated majority, and pleased to be able to freely express their natural aversion to order, discipline, respect for the law, and everything that differentiates a civilized society from a savage horde, the members of the UDP have devoted their time to calmly and carefully take advantage of the only thing that almost all politicians with power seek: becoming rich at any price. This is how, taking advantage of their power, they have monopolized contraband to and from the country; they have engaged in the production and trafficking of drugs; they have taken control of the dollar black market; they have commercialized and negotiated the donations received from abroad for those affected by adversity and to feed the neglected; they have disposed, without any restrictions, of the currency generated by the seriously affected productive sector, by directly speculating with it in the black market or with the goods imported with that currency; they have obtained supernumerous jobs, thus increasing even more so the heavy bureaucracies of the state enterprises that show a deficit and of the ineffective public administration. Such an orgy of dishonest irresponsibility had to yield its bitter fruit in the long run: The national productive apparatus has deteriorated and the national coffers have been emptied. The people are starting to feel the price they must pay for their distraction and antisocial behavior, as they awaken from the lethargy they had descended into due to the euphoria of the country's anarchy. People are starting to indulge in speculation openly; and income, which has always been scarce, can no longer cover their needs, and this is the time when hunger is beginning to sinisterly appear. In confronting the awakening of the masses to the cruel reality, the UDP, in order to continue benefiting with the same impunity that it has thus far, simply and cynically decided to once again distract the people, this time through the confusion, disorientation, and despair caused by the economic measures issued last May and November. On both occasions they were launched advocating the need to "defend the democratic process," which has been used as the most effective antidote to the reaction of the incautious majority to whom democracy represents anarchy. The UDP, in its determination to benefit from power, managed in only 2 years to achieve something that we would not have been able to obtain from our most inflexible enemy: a bloodcurdling inflation rate; a 35,000-percent devaluation of our currency; a 2,000-percent drop in the purchasing power of salaries; a pitiless speculation carried out by the state with the people and an even more pitiless speculation among Bolivians; the almost complete destruction of the productive apparatus; and a complete change of status of state corporations, from a powerful factor within our economy to its heaviest burden, because of the corporations' inefficiency and irresponsible management and the high cost of satisfying the shameless and improper special privileges granted to those who instead of serving the corporations helped themselves at their expense. The current maintenance of these corporations is one of the main causes of inflation and the increasing cost of living.

The social chaos is being made more acute by the economic woes, which are being promoted by the government as another diversionary tactic so that it can freely enjoy the perquisites of power while the people fight among themselves over apparent differences.

With the help of the wrongly called labor leadership, those who renege on work, reptiles who feed by relying on the honest fruits of those who toil and can prosper only under the shelter of weak and corrupt governments, the UDP sows discord among Bolivians, turning all of us into sworn enemies of our countrymen. It provokes confrontations among classes that have been harmoniously integrating for the good of the nation; fictitiously creates other classes when the existing ones are not enough; awakens and revives forgotten feuds; immorally invents new feuds in order to keep the struggle among Bolivians alive; and grants privileges to regions and sectors, thus giving rise to bitter regionalism and sectarianism that endangers our precarious national integration. No doubt, the UDP's guiding slogan is the same as the one of the 1950's movement: Divide and conquer! This is a Machiavellian formula that the crooks are using nowadays to gain the freedom they need to rule at will. The political chaos is characterized not by the misunderstandings and disputes common among progovernment politicians, opposition politicians, and independents, as the fools believe, but by the almost total absence of intelligent, educated, capable, honest, and patriotic politicians whose integrity is proven by unblemished political careers. The 2 and 1/2 years of democratic parody that the country has been experiencing and that is sinking the nation into the saddest disgrace, confirm this absence of capable statesmen. The ineptitude, deficient education, and lack of integrity of politicians, evidenced by their performance of their executive and legislative duties and the shameless ignorance with which they have violated the Constitution and the country's laws, are sufficient to confirm the political chaos in which the nation now lives.

In view of the chaotic present situation and the worrisome future, and of these tangible and unimagined realities, we the members of the Armed Forces, the guardians of the fatherland's heritage and destiny, cannot remain unmoved like alien spectators, indifferently watching the fatherland disintegrate before the merciless onslaught of immorality, ineptness, imposture, irresponsibility, arbitrariness, and deception -- the eternal causes of our national misfortunes. Our honor, pledged to the flag of the fatherland, compels us to assume the attitude the present situation demands, an attitude which the people, in their daily public demonstrations of powerless desperation, are already asking for from those who are their armed champions.

Therefore, the Armed Forces, fulfilling their sacred constitutional duty to defend and preserve the nation's security, stability, and honor by ensuring respect for the Constitution as provided for in Article 208, should assume the role incumbent upon them, in a legitimately constitutional and sovereign attitude, to decide what is best for the national interest and maintain the respect of foreigners. We must first prevent the collapse of the nation in order to make possible its recovery through the establishment of a new order and the adoption of measures to definitively eradicate the causes of our past and present national misfortunes allowing Bolivians to recover their right to govern themselves in democracy and to do so on a firm and solid basis, capable of reviving their faith in the yet unattained well-being and prosperity to which they are entitled.

In view of this immobility, your general, who bears an unsullied sword and sufficient authority, demands from you the fulfillment of your duty as soldiers, because he is conscious of his commitments to the fatherland, despite his retirement from the Armed Forces, in order to give you the opportunity to acquire the professional capacity and experience which are indispensable to defend the nation.

TO DIE FOR THE FATHERLAND IS TO BE BORN TO GLORY! [capitalization as published]

La Paz, 14 January 1985

[Signed] General Ernesto Guzman Fricke, ImC. [expansion unknown] 492978 L.P. [inactive]

FOREIGN DEBT RENEGOTIATION TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

PY181355 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The renegotiation of the Brazilian foreign debt has been suspended for 10 days. Celso Pastore, president of the Central Bank of Brazil, has returned to the country and will go back to New York on 28 January. Pastore has said that progress has been made in the negotiations, but that there are still issues to be settled: datelines, maturity date, and spread rate.

Proposed Spread Rate Rejected

PY191341 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Our creditors want to make a profit from Brazil. Finance Minister Ernane Galveas has disclosed that the foreign banks have refused to accept the Brazilian formula to calculate the spread rate since it establishes the profits. Galveas explained that Brazil intends to reach a spread rate similar to the one obtained by Mexico.

EXPERTS COMMENT ON SEVENTH LETTER OF INTENT

PY181632 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Jan 85 p 26

[Text] By disclosing the seventh letter of intent to the IMF last Tuesday, the same day on which the new president was elected, the government was trying to point out that the economic commitments that have been established for 1985 are not in keeping with the promises that Tancredo Neves has made regarding the solution of the economic crisis.

This is what high-ranking government experts said, and they added that the publication of the letter took Alexandre Kafka, the Brazilian representative to the IMF, by surprise since it will be submitted to the IMF board for its approval in mid-March.

Moreover, these experts agree that the seventh letter of intent establishes that recessive measures will be implemented in Brazil. For example, the letter clearly notes, regarding measures pertaining to demand, that "up to now the restrictive measures needed to curb inflation have not been implemented." Nevertheless, the president-elect has specifically stated that Brazil's economic recovery will not be achieved through recession.

But, according to Tancredo Neves' economists, the issue is that after 4 years of a recessive economic policy with resulting high social costs, Brazilians are looking forward to those courageous changes that have already been promised by the president-elect. However, they also admit that it is necessary to overcome some crucial obstacles to achieve economic recovery, the most important of which is precisely submissiveness toward the IMF, which only worsens the deteriorating financial system both in the public and private sectors.

The experts note that the enforcement of extremely high interest rates promotes instability in the private financial sector, and that this situation will block any efforts to boost investments and that it may cause hyperinflation, which in turn could disrupt the economic system.

PLANNING MINISTER RESIGNS; TO WORK FOR AD

PA192229 Paris AFP in Spanish 2007 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Caracas, 17 Jan (AFP) -- Venezuelan Planning Minister Luis Raul Matos Azocar has resigned from the post he has held for 1 year in the Social Democratic administration of President Jaime Lusinchi.

Matos Azocar announced his irrevocable decision before the National Congress, indicating that he had fulfilled his duty and that hereafter he would work for the Democratic Action [AD] (ruling) party.

The former planning minister, one of the youngest in Lusinchi's cabinet, was the proponent of the current government's economic policy, within the framework of the "social pact" (an agreement among the workers, businessmen, and government to overcome the country's economic difficulties).

SURVEY SHOWS INCREASED INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN 1984

PA180024 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 10 Jan 85 p 2-1

[By C. R. Chavez]

[Excerpts] A survey of the country's industrial sector and the behavior of the prices of consumer goods and services conducted by the technical departments of the Venezuelan Federation of Associations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has reflected an encouraging fact that was later confirmed in studies made by the authorities: The results of the country's industrial activity in 1984 were positive, and there were no spectacular price increases, despite the overall adjustments in several sectors and areas of the economy.

A survey of the various industrial areas reveals that the production and sales levels of a major portion of industry grew during 1984, resulting in an increase of slightly over 3 percent in the gross industrial products in 1984; this was later confirmed by the Central Bank.

Indicators show an upturn during the first quarter, even though the factors that influenced prices in 1983 remained the same.

Changes in the consumer price index during March averaged 1.3 percent, which was higher than any recorded in 1982.

Increases were recorded in the area of "foodstuffs, beverages, and tobacco," particularly in the prices of meat, grease, oils, fish, and seafood.

Moderate growth was reflected in the manufacturing sector during the second quarter of 1984. Increases in the textile, tobacco, paper, chemicals, plastic, and metal sectors were significant. The capacity used during the second quarter of 1984 was estimated at 66 percent.

The volume of orders increased. The most significant increases were recorded in the areas of textiles, rubber, chemicals, metal products, and paper. Simultaneously, inventory levels continued to drop and increases in wholesale prices became less general.

As a result of the new exchange structure established at the end of the first quarter of the year, prices began to rise by the second quarter. In addition, and due to other factors, price increases for other products were authorized. These price increases appeared to be most significant during April.

Average consumer prices reached 5.6 percent during the second quarter, four times higher than that of the first quarter of 1984.

The manufacturing industry's production increased slightly during the third quarter fo 1984, while the capacity utilized during this period was 67 percent.

The products whose orders and production were larger are textiles, paper, rubber, plastics, and nonmetallic mineral products.

According to OCEI [expansion unknown] labor statistics, unemployment reached 14.7 percent during the third quarter of 1984. It rose from 12.5 percent during the second quarter.

The high unemployment rate in the manufacturing industry has continued despite the fact that some sectors, such as textiles and foodstuffs, appear to have recovered.

Restaurants and hotels did not succeed in generating sufficient jobs to make up for the depressing situation that affects other activities, such as commerce.

Activities with a high job-generating capacity, such as the construction sector, have continued to be affected by the economic recession. Even in the agricultural sector, where large reactiviation efforts have been made, the number of available jobs varied widely.

BRIEFS

NEW GUYANESE AMBASSADOR -- The Foreign Affairs Ministry has reported that Ms Cherril Miles, the new Guyanese ambassador to Venezuela, will be arriving in Caracas on 19 January. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Jan 85 p D 3 PA]

CANADA'S JOE CLARK CONCLUDES 3-DAY VISIT

Meets With President

FL182008 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0125 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today received the Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, Joe Clark, in a private audience. The meeting took place at Los Pinos, the official residence, and lasted half an hour. Sources in the President's Office reported that they discussed matters of bilateral interest. Also present at the meeting were Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Mexican Ambassador to Canada Jose Andres de Oteyza, and officials of both counties. The contents of the talks were not announced.

Discusses Trade, World Economy

FL191636 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark underscored here today the necessity of supporting the world economic order through a vigorous trade system able to resist the pressures of protectionism. Clark proposed increasing exports in order to solve the crisis of the 1980's, and added that developing countries must achieve this goal, particularly in the export of products of high aggregate value, if there is to be growth.

Clark felt that establishing a world economic order was basic, but that this could only be done through strict attention to social stability. On this matter, the minister said that during his 2-day visit to Mexico he had agreed with his Mexican counterpart, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, to continue helping Caribbean nations achieve peace through Canadian-instituted mechanisms of verification and control in the Contadora Document. He said that up to now he had not received any proposal to join the committee for verification and control, which whould be formed once it is approved by the Contadora member nations.

On Mexican-Canadian relations and the results of his talks with President De la Madrid and four secretaries of state, Clark said that there was interest for increased trade of products and technology.

Clark said that Canada was also interested in joint investments in Mexican sectors. Presently there are 150 sectors, and he underscored the help Canada could provide Mexico in the fields of satellite communications, urban transit, railroad transport, generation of energy, and resource development.

Ambassador Comments on Trip

FL192030 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1758 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark's visit to Mexico was very positive because the trade and friendship ties between the two countries were drawn closer during his stay. This statement was made by Canadian Ambassador to Mexico James Russell McKinney, who added that the two important matters discussed by the Canadian minister and Mexican officials included economic and commercial conditions in both countries and the Central American situation.

The ambassador said that at the meeting between the Canadian secretary of state for external affairs and his Mexican counterpart, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, they discussed the Contadora Group's peace efforts within which Mexico plays a relevant role.

Asked about the U.S. withdrawal from the Manzanillo talks, Mckinney said that this was not the time to talk about the consequences of that withdrawal.

Joe Clark, who has departed for Ottawa, Canada, was seen off by Sepulveda at the presidential hangar after a 3-day working trip to Mexico.

DE LA MADRID INTERVIEWED ON WORLD SITUATION

FL191530 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0330 GMT 19 Jan 85

[By correspondent Pablo Duch]

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid has said in an interview with the Soviet weekly magazine MOSCOW NEWS, that Mexico is at present a nation of institutions with a diversified economic infrastructure and a political and juridical system able to deal with the increasingly complex social order. Interviewed in Mexico by a member of the Soviet periodical, De la Madrid said that over the next few years the very serious and worrisome problems which affect the political and economic world order must be resolved, because if they are not, the 20th century may end in a climate of political decomposition, perhaps even in chaos. The president said that the peace and security of nations will have to be based on international coexistence, a respect for rights, and equitable cooperation.

He said industrialized nations should be open to dialogue and effective economic cooperation with developing countries. He added that now more than ever a new world economic order is needed which will be able to overcome the contradictions which have fueled the economic crisis, an order based on just and dynamic trade and financial relations which will extend benefits to everyone.

On the restart of talks between the Soviet Union and the United States, President De la Madrid believed this would pave the way toward the control and reversal of the arms race, a lessening in tensions and regional conflicts, and would support international cooperation in development. De la Madrid said that faced with the precarious peace in which humanity lives, sustained by a fragile and vulnerable balance of power, the international community should firmly uphold the talks between the United States and Soviet Union, and respect for international coexistence as a bases for a general peace, both stable and lasting.

On economic matters, the president said the world crisis continued to especially affect the developing countries, and that negotiations toward overcoming this situation and establishing a new international economic order continued to be deadlocked.

At the same time, he added, international organizations were made vulnerable in some degree, to the detriment of the urgent, concerted will of the community of nations. [as received] Nevertheless, President De la Madrid concluded, 1984 allowed Latin America to obtain relevant political successes; in spite of the serious economic problems, which were dramatically reflected in the foreign debt, the region's democratic tendencies were strengthened, Latin American solidarity was notably revitalized, and communication and coordination among governments was increased.

PROTESTERS DEMAND HALT TO U.S. MILITARY AID

PA181930 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jan 85 p 1 A

[Report by Flor Quintero]

[Text] During a peaceful demonstration staged with picket signs in front of the U.S. Embassy in Panama City, the Committee Against the Militarization of Panama outrightly rejected the joint maneuvers that Panamanian and American forces are conducting in the Azuero region, U.S. aid to the Panama Defense Forces, and the abusive financial measures the current government is seeking to implement. Carrying placards in English and Spanish that read, among other things, "Gringos, Protectors of Corrupt Military Men," "We want Democracy, Not Militarism," "Briggs: Friend of Military Men and Enemy of Democracy," "Stop Feeding Our Military to Overpower USA Panamanians" [preceding words in English and as published], the protesters manifested their complete repudiation of the increase of militarization and asserted that our country's army, which the United States subsidizes, must not shield itself behind the alleged defense of the Panama Canal to commit abuses against and trample the Panamanian people. To the tune of "Panama March," dozens of demonstrators from the Committee Against the Militarization of Panama gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy and protested for 2 hours, during which they urged Ambassador Briggs to convey to President Reagan the Panamanians' desire that the "United States stop giving military assistance to the corrupt Defense Forces."

In a message clearly intended for Briggs, the committee's president, Jose Manuel Faundes, expressed his absolute disagreement with the support and "backslapping" that the U.S. Government is showing with regard to the military's policy of national security. "We disagree with the joint maneuvers you are staging, which insult our national pride," he said. "Stop assisting the Defense Forces because the Defense Forces have shown that they are against the Panamanian people. If aid and the supply of military equipment continues, you will make it more arrogant, prepotent, and a greater enemy of the people," Faundes said. He stressed: "The maneuvers must not be held because all Panamanians, from one end of the country to another, oppose them." Ranking leaders of the Coordinating Board for National Civilianization, including Mauro Zuniga, Marcos Alarcon, Oscar Navarro, Juan Chevalier, and Juan Acosta also attended the demonstration in front of the American Embassy.

CARDOZE REPORTS ON MEETING WITH SHLAUDEMAN

PA191406 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 19 Jan 85 p 1

[From "Local Highlights" column]

[Text] Panama's Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze confirmed yesterday that he did meet with President Reagan's Special Envoy for Central America Harry Shlaudeman, during the latter's flash visit to Panama on Wednesday. "The U.S. envoy was in my office...we discussed the situation in Central America at length. He also furnished a progress report on U.S. Nicaraguan peace talks held recently in Manzanillo, Mexico," the foreign minister told the press. Shlaudeman's arrival in Panama on Wednesday was shrouded with secrecy. Neither the U.S. Embassy here or Foreign Ministry officials would comment on the purpose of the envoy's visit.

Speculations it had to do with the Contadora Group's efforts to find a settlement to the war-torn Central American region were confirmed by Cardoze, who said he did not know what Shlaudeman's next stop would be after he left Thursday.

NICARAGUA'S CHAMORRO DISCUSSES PRESS CENSORSHIP

PA212233 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Jan 85 pp A 1, A 10

[By Juan Carlos Duque M.]

[Text] Nicaraguan newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro has told members of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA and the STAR AND HERALD's editorial staff the "literally speaking, the two most common words in Nicaragua today are 'not available.'" Chamorro was invited to lecture on freedom of speech last night at the Marriott Hotel by the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, APEDE. The former director of the newspaper LA PRENSA of Nicaragua lives in exile in San Jose, Costa Rica, because he claims that "there is no freedom of speech in my country." Chamorro met for a little more than 1/2 hour with our newsmen. He pointed out amazing facts about the scarcity of basic staples and articles in Nicaragua and the brutal press censorship experienced in his country, especially by LA PRENSA. In describing such crude press censorship, Chamorro said that LA PRENSA is 3 hours late coming out each day because the entire publication must be approved by the authorities. However, he showed concern over the apathy of certain sectors that are "more concerned with Daniel Ortega's announcement that the United States will invade Nicaragua than the problems brought about by scarcity in Nicaragua."

A few weeks ago Pedro Joaquin Chamorro pledged that he would not return to his country as long as the conditions necessary to exercise free and objective journalism are not present. Yesterday he maintained his stand, saying: "Sandinism cannot allow objective journalism; its advocators think that the people will not buy LA PRENSA if they censor it, but they have been proven wrong. The people actually identify with the newspaper even more." "I will stay in Costa Rica until there is freedom of the press in Nicaragua."

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was accompanied by William Walters, a prestigious U.S. newsman of THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC. Walters lectured on freedom of speech at the University of Panama's School of Social Communications and again last night before the APEDE with newsman Chamorro.

As for the Contadora Group, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro showed skepticism toward the benefits it could bring to Central America. He believes that the Contadora Group has lost its importance because the Central American countries cannot reach an agreement regarding a peace document. He said: "I do not forsee any success for it." As for Nicaragua's future, he said that 1985 should be called the year of "Manzanillo" because "something is always cooking; in fact, something is cooking now, but we do not yet know what." As for democracy in Nicaragua, Chamorro said that "to achieve peace a genuine democracy" must be implemented. As long as there is no democracy in Nicaragua, there will be no peace. "I am a newsman who cannot practice his profession in Nicaragua because such work constitutes a frustrating experience there." Chamorro urged the international press to join in a campaign to reestablish freedom of the press in his country. Since March 1982 LA PRENSA has been experiencing brutal censorship at such levels that the newspaper has occasionally not been able to circulate. Chamorro ended his meeting by saying: "There is an ever-decreasing number of people willing to practice journalism in Nicaragua because efforts to suppress it are increasing."

COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA ACCEPT CONTADORA MEDIATION

PA190121 Paris AFP in Spanish 0031 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Washington, 18 Jan (AFP) -- Costa Rica and Nicaragua have agreed to submit to the good offices of the Contadora Group the solution of their disagreement over the case of asylum seeker Jose Manuel Urbina Lara who, according to Costa Rica, was taken by force from its embassy in Managua. The agreement was reached at the OAS Permanent Council where Costa Rica had raised the case as a violation of the right of asylum.

Nicaragua rejected such a description, arguing that Urbina Lara voluntarily left the Costa Rican Embassy. Nevertheless, it accepted the good offices offered by the Contadora Group made up of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. Costa Rica also accepted the mediation.

The agreement prevents a boycott of the next meeting of the Contadora Group planned for mid-February in Panama which Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras had threatened not to attend if Nicaragua did not satisfactorily reply to Costa Rica's complaint.

COSTA RICA

MONGE ON OAS HANDLING OF URBINA LARA ISSUE

PA192344 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Before the OAS rejected Costa Rica's request to investigate the case of Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, President Monge predicted that Costa Rica would not receive sufficient support. Monge told the press: Everyone who has been attacking and criticizing us because we did not take the matter to the international organization will be surprised today when they learn why we did not make that move.

Monge stated: Two-thirds of the total number of votes are required for an OAS decision and sometimes not even that many delegates attend the sessions.

Last night the OAS Permanent Council gave the Contadora Group responsibility for trying to achieve an understanding between Costa Rica and Nicaragua on the asylum case of Jose Manuel Urbina Lara. All 19 members of the council who attended last night's session approved a resolution urging the two governments to make greater efforts to resolve the incident in a friendly and peaceful way through the Contadora Group's mediation. The resolution was welcomed by the council. Meanwhile, Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador have announced that they will not attend the group's meeting scheduled for February if the Urbina Lara case is not resolved by then.

GUTIERREZ ASSAILS BORGE REMARKS ON ANTI-SANDINISTS

PA212002 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Report by Vilma Ibarra from the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Dr Carlos Jose Gutierrez said today that since 1982 no ranking Nicaraguan Government official had made statements of the caliber of those made yesterday by Commander Tomas Borge, who said that our country is a refuge for anti-Sandinist mercenaries. The foreign minister's statement follows:

[Begin recording] I have requested that an effort be made to obtain the full text of these statements. Undoubtedly, they will reveal a hostile position toward Costa Rica. This is significant because nothing of this nature had occurred since 1982. Since 1982, no ranking Nicaraguan Government official has directly accused the Costa Rican Government of favoring the anti-Sandinists. On the contrary, they usually mention the presence of anti-Sandinist organizations here in Costa Rica, but (?note) that they were aware that this was happening without either the consent or support of Luis Alberto Monge's government. [end recording]

Dr Gutierrez added that Commander Borge's statement was suprising because only last week he received a note from the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry urging the Costa Rican Government to be prudent in its statements, something which, according to the Costa Rican foreign minister, the Nicaraguans themselves apparently do not practice. Dr Gutierrez made these statements after meeting here at the Foreign Ministry for over 1 hour with West German Minister of State in the Foreign Ministry Dr Juergen Moellemann, who is visiting our country officially, as he himself explained. He added that reports stating that his visit was private had been the result of some technical mistake and that his visit here definitely reflects the interest of both Germany and Costa Rica in bolstering bilateral relations, which have traditionally been very good. During the visit, several agreements will also be finalized. These agreements initially resulted from the EEC meeting held last September here in San Jose. However, the West German minister of state in the Foreign Ministry refused to provide any details about the aid or the terms under which it will be provided to our country. He asked the media representatives to be patient until tomorrow when, before leaving for other Central American countries, he will hold a press conference in the Diplomatic Room of the Juan Santamaria Airport to report on the details of the work conducted here today and tomorrow morning. For his part, Dr Gutierrez described the West German official's visit as very important but said that due to the visiting official's request, the terms of the economic and political aid that his friendly country will provide to Costa Rica will not be announced until tomorrow.

EL SALVADOR

COMMUNIQUE SUPPORTS COSTA RICAN CONTADORA STAND

PA192048 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 Jan 85 pp 1, 47

[Text] The Salvadoran Government ratifies its solidarity and support for the Costa Rican position not to attend the Contadora Group meeting until Nicaragua gives the necessary satisfactions.

This statement is part of the official communique released by the Foreign Ministry yesterday on the next Contadora meeting, which was slated to be held in mid-February in San Jose, Costa Rica. As is known, the Contadora Group, which is made up of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama, called a meeting for 14 and 15 February in a new effort to find a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict. Tension emerged between Costa Rica and Nicaragua when the Sandinists forcefully removed a young man who had sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua on 24 December. The Foreign Ministry communique reads as follows:

"The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry, in connection with the Costa Rican Government's stand on the irresponsible action carried out by the Nicaraguan Government when it violently removed Nicaraguan refugee Jose Manuel Urbina Lara from the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua on 24 December 1984, states the following to the national and international public:

"1. The action carried out by the Nicaraguan Government violates the most elemental norms of international law, particularly those of hemispheric international law, as it flagrantly violated the principle of the right to asylum.

"2. The Salvadoran Government expresses its full solidarity with the stand and position assumed by the Costa Rican Government in view of Nicaragua's action which, in addition to violating the principles of international law mentioned above, also violated the norms that regulate peaceful coexistence among nations.

"3. With its action, Nicaragua has once again demonstrated its lack of interest in improving relations with neighboring countries in order to create an appropriate climate that will permit the achievement of peace in Central America in the short term in accordance with the efforts being made within the Contadora initiative. It also demonstrates contempt for legality and for the respect of human rights, and reveals its totalitarian inclinations.

"In this regard, the Salvadoran Government ratifies its solidarity and support for the Costa Rican position not to attend a Contadora meeting until Nicaragua gives the necessary satisfaction."

San Salvador, 18 January 1985

Tenorio Expresses Solidarity

PA201231 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 85

[By Raul Beltran]

[Text] The movement of commercial and privately owned vehicles is practically paralyzed in the country's eastern, central, and northern areas, according to reports by civilians and Land Transportation Directorate spokesmen. This radio station has learned that this situation is the result of FMLN guerrillas' threats to damage all vehicles circulating as of Saturday, pending new instructions by guerrillas. Meanwhile, military sources of the 3d Zone, located in San Miguel and in Usulutan, have reported that Army members have begun to take up positions on eastern roads to protect drivers. No incidents have been reported so far on the Northern Trunk Highway. Civilian and military sources and officials of the General Directorate of Land Transportation have said that drivers have decided not to drive their vehicles to prevent their being destroyed while on the roads.

Meanwhile, authorities are trying to identify the killers of Graciela Monico, 25, mayor of San Jorge, San Miguel Department, yesterday afternoon. She was designated mayor by the National Republican Alliance, ARENA. Civilian sources in San Miguel say the authorities are continuing their investigation.

In addition, in La Ponderosa, near Chiltuc, north of Apopa, FMLN sappers blew up an electric power pylon last night at about 2320, interrupting power to several places in the country's north, nearby villages, and San Salvador.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio has expressed his solidarity with the Costa Rican Government against Managua over the violation of the right of asylum by the Nicaraguan Government on the night of 24 December. Nicaraguan forces removed a young Nicaraguan man from the Costa Rican Embassy on that date. The young man had sought political asylum. As a result of this solidarity, it is uncertain whether El Salvador will attend the Contadora plenipotentiaries' meeting on 14 and 15 February. Asked whether El Salvador would attend the Contadora meeting in order to (?support) the stance of the group which is trying to achieve peace and detente in the area, Minister Tenorio answered:

[Begin recording] [Tenorio] Thanks for your question, Raul. This allows us to clarify some questions. In the first place, the meeting convoked -- the one you say I should attend -- is not for foreign ministers, or, rather, a decision had not been made as to whether the meeting would be for foreign ministers.

The meeting that has been convoked for 14 and 15 February is for plenipotentiaries, not necessarily foreign ministers. In the second place, Costa Rica has not said that it will no longer attend Contadora Group meetings but that, so long as the problem of the violation of the right of asylum by Nicaragua exists, Costa Rica would not attend the next Contadora meeting of plenipotentiaries because a true climate of confidence does not exist. In this regard Costa Rica does not need my defense because it is a country with a long, consistent democratic tradition. Honduras and El Salvador have assumed a stance of solidarity with Costa Rica which is, as I have said before, a consistent and uniform democracy in Central America. In addition, we believe that the 24 December violation of the right of asylum generates a climate of mistrust entirely inappropriate for the Contadora process.

[Beltran] (?Is this) a boycott?

[Tenorio] You can rest assured that it is not a boycott, but the violation of basic principles of international law creates mistrust and prevents the continuation of the process so long as the problem of the violation is not solved. If the violation of the right of asylum on 24 December is not corrected, the proper climate for further talks will not exist. At any rate, a boycott would not originate with Costa Rica or with the countries that support it but with those who have violated the right of asylum by abducting a political asylum seeker from the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua. [end recording]

Finally, Ronald Reagan in Washington, anxious to support the Jose Napoleon Duarte government, will request this year that Congress approve $172 million in aid for El Salvador, White House officials disclosed today. Spokesman Larry Speakes has said that this request would bring the total amount of aid for El Salvador through the long-term plan suggested by the bipartisian presidential commission headed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to $600 million. Speakes said: We are implementing the Kissinger commission's recommendations for greater military and economic assistance for El Salvador. He also said that Reagan will ask the Congress to increase military aid to El Salvador by about $200 million in addition to the $128 million granted by the Congress last year. It has also been reported that the U.S. Administration will seek an additional $100 million in addition to the $326 million in economic aid approved in 1984. Speakes added that the final decisions still have not been made and that this depends on the strict budget restrictions. The Congress' stance, however, is uncertain.

Democrat Michael Barnes, former chairman of a House of Representatives subcommittee in charge of overseeing U.S. policy in Central America, told THE NEW YORK TIMES that last year the government got all it wanted and that it might not enjoy similar success this year. Barnes said: We seek areas to make reductions, not increases, because this is case where the Congress cannot be charged with selfishness. I believe any request for further aid will be carefully considered and analyzed. He noted the budget restrictions aimed at correcting the huge U.S. fiscal deficit. (Clyde Johnston), a State Department official, told THE NEW YORK TIMES that the additional aid would be used to improve the mobility of the Salvadoran forces and communication in battlefields. Speakes denied that this decision resulted from signs of a growing threat to the Duarte government supported by the United States. THE NEW YORK TIMES said that the U.S. Government is concerned about Duarte's situation and that, as proof of its support for him, the U.S. Government is willing to pressure Congress for more aid, particularly in view of the legislative elections slated for March, the postponement of which has been sought by rightist parties.

GUERRILLAS 'PARTIALLY' DESTROY BRIDGE IN MORAZAN

PA202306 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2226 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The bridge over the Torola River, in the northern sector of eastern Morazan Department, was partially destroyed today by Salvadoran guerrillas. Army spokesmen told ACAN-EFE that the bridge suffered serious structural damage as a result of the explosion of several dynamite charges placed in one of the bridges' supports by the rebels. The Torola bridge, some 190 km east of San Salvador, was not under military guard. It was rebuilt last year after being totally destroyed by the guerrillas in 1981. Military sources said that according to residents in the northern area of Morazan Department, FMLN members had voiced their intention to destroy the Torola bridge to block the passage of military vehicles. However, military spokesmen added that the action had mostly affected the residents because eight communities in the northern part of Morazan have been left practically inaccessible by land. In the past 2 weeks, the Salvadoran Army has been engaged in an "important" counterinsurgency operation in the northern sector of Morazan Department with the participation of specialized battalions and Air Force units. Meanwhile, the rebels continue their sabotage campaign against land transportation and electric supply.

ARMY PATROLS ROADS IN EAST; TRAFFIC INCREASES

PA211436 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Traffic conditions in eastern El Salvador improved today, the second consecutive day of a ban on transportation decreed by the FMLN leftist guerrillas. Army patrol activities opened the Pan-American Highway to traffic today, and public and private transportation along that route increased accordingly. The General Transportation Directorate reported that yesterday only three buses transited that highway. Today, traffic in the area increased by approximately 40 percent. Meanwhile, the Salvadoran Army is patrolling main roads, such as the Military Route, the Pan-American Highway, and the Coastal Highway. The patrol units are ready to ambush rebels at strategic points along these roads.

VENCEREMOS: TOROLA BRIDGE 'COMPLETELY DESTROYED'

PA210142 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Special units of the Commander Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade of the FMLN completely destroyed the bridge over the Torola River at dawn today, Sunday, 20 January. The operation was carried out in the rearguard of the operation of four enemy battalions: Belloso, Lenca, Cacahuatique, and Leon. Special units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade infiltrated the bridge area and placed the charges that completely destroyed the structure over the Torola River, foiling the entire operation of the puppet Army. The bridge was restored by the puppet Army during the "Torola IV" operation, and had been used this month by the forces of the dictatorship to enter the northern sector of Morazan Department to ship weapons and other equipment. The bridge was mainly being used for military purposes and at no time was it used for the alleged economic recovery announced by the regime. On the contrary, the bridge served the repressive activities against the civilian population and shippers who were engaged in transporting food and staple products to the population. In fact, the frustrated "Torola V" operation was more destructive to the civilian population, as many house and plantations owned by humble peasants were burned. It also made indiscriminate artillery attacks possible, such as the one in San Isidro in which women, elderly persons, and children were murdered.

This has been a report received by Radio Venceremos on the destruction of the bridge over the Torola River by special units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade at dawn today, 20 January, in the midst of the operation of four enemy battalions.

FMLN CALLS NATIONWIDE TRANSPORT STOPPAGE

PA181755 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Radio Venceremos announces that as of Saturday, 19 January, there will be a nationwide transport stoppage. We exhort all national and international shippers and all our people to obey this FMLN order to paralyze transport activities nationwide. The roads in the western, central, and mideastern sectors of El Salvador must not be used for any type of transport, either passenger or commercial, beginning Saturday, 19 January, until further notice. This new national transport strike is part of our sabotage activities against the economy of the oppressive regime during this harvest of products that permit the government to amass the millions used to stain our territory with blood. The measure is also directed against the mobilization of troops of the puppet Army through the highways of the country. We exhort the citizens not to use the roads in the western, central, and eastern parts of the country, as there will be heavy fighting in these sectors. Therefore, to avoid creating innocent victims, we exhort the people not to use the roads in the country during the current transportation stoppage, which will begin Saturday, 19 January. By the same token, we exhort international shippers not to use any of the roads in the western, central, and eastern parts of the country.

Traffic Paralyzed in East

PA211502 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Reports arriving at Radio Venceremos from several places in eastern El Salvador indicate that transportation has been paralyzed for the second consecutive day as a result of the FMLN order. We report: Transportation has been paralyzed in the country's eastern region for the second consecutive day. Roads are deserted in that area. This information has been received from companeros from various places in eastern El Salvador. Meanwhile, we are waiting for further reports from the country's western region. We have already received a report that traffic was light on Saturday. We are also waiting for reports from the Northern Trunk Highway and other highways in the country. The paralyzation of transportation throughout the territory continues.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA ON CONTADORA, SALVADORAN BORDER, U.S.

PA181545 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1912 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Report on a press conference with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica on 17 January by Danilo Antunez; place of conference not given -- questioners not identified]

[Excerpts] The Contadora Group's peace efforts have begun to crumble. Honduras will not participate in the next Contadora meeting on 14 and 15 February as an expression of solidarity with the Costa Rican Government. Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica announced that this decision was made today by the National Security Council. In addition, he announced that the negotiations between the Honduran-Salvadoran joint border mission will resume on Monday.

[Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] The meeting of the National Security Council was called by President Roberto Suazo Cordova to discuss various topics. There was nothing special about it. It was just a normal meeting of the Security Council. Among the topics discussed, I want to mention the following:

We analyzed the Contadora Group's peace efforts in light of the visit to Honduras by Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo with regard to the observations presented by Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador -- and partly by Guatemala -- in the document approved in Tegucigalpa and signed on 19 and 20 October. As you may recall, the Colombian foreign minister said that those observations were very valuable and basic and that they promoted and substantially improved the document. This is recognition of the work carried out by Honduras jointly with Costa Rica and El Salvador. It refutes those who are saying locally that Honduras is hindering the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

We also analyzed the meeting convoked by the Contadora Group at the level of plenipotentiaries and not necessarily of foreign ministers of the four Contadora countries and the five Central American countries in mid-February in Panama. This was discussed in view of the current crisis between Nicaragua and Costa Rica as a result of the problem that emerged over the right of asylum that, in Costa Rica's view, has been violated by the Nicaraguan Government. Costa Rica has stated that it continues to support the Contadora Group's peace efforts with the same interest but that as long as Nicaragua does not give a satisfactory reply to this problem, it will not attend any meeting of the Contadora Group. Honduras' poition is one of solidarity with the Costa Rican position.

Another important aspect is that of the bilateral negotiations with the United States. The Security Council discussed the advances in economic and security aspects. The Armed Forces commander, the chief of the joint General Staff, and the commanders of the various military branches took part in the discussion on security. The government and foreign secretaries took part in the discussion on the political aspects. The secretary of the presidency was unable to attend. During the discsussion on the economy, we called Moises Starkman [minister-adviser of the presidency] and Hector Medina [not further identified] since the economic negotiations include the disbursing of funds previously approved by the U.S. Government and the securing of new resources approved by the U.S. Government. We hope it will be a substantial and dignified cooperation. We feel that progress is being made in these bilateral talks. I want to tell you that perhaps this week a U.S. Government delegation will come to the country to continue discussing these matters within the overall concepts that the Honduran Government proposed last year. Next week and in February and March there will be meetings of the high-level commission and the commissions for economic and security affairs.

We also evaluated the advances achieved with regard to the direct negotiations between Honduras and El Salvador to solve the border dispute based on the 1980 general peace treaty. As I have repeatedly told you, the deadline for direct negotiations ends this year. Therefore, Honduras has to be ready. Of course it has always been ready and the solution to the border dispute with El Salvador has always been a priority subject for the Suazo Cordova government. However, this subject will be given greater emphasis this year. There has never been any negligence in this regard as some local whippersnappers have stated. They are the ones who have betrayed the fatherland as has been proved by some documents on hand at the Foreign Secretariat and by their actions, which the Honduran people are well aware of because one of the good things about being a small country is that everyone knows everyone else. I also want to tell you that we discussed the messages of congratulations from President Suazo Cordova to the new presidents-elect of Uruguay, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, and of Brazil, Tancredo Neves. President Suazo Cordova has been invited to attend the Uruguayan presidential inauguration and will probably be invited to the Brazilian inauguration.

Because of special medical reasons, he will be unable to attend and I will represent him at both inaugurations with the understanding that Honduras will strengthen its relations with those governments that represent the return to democracy in those friendly countries.

[Question] International organizations have questioned the repatriation of Salvadoran refugees. What is the position of the National Security Council or the Honduran Government in general?

[Paz Barnica] The Security Council has discussed refugees on various occasions, and a special subcommission has even been created. I also want to tell you that a delegation recently traveled to Geneva to discuss the refugee issue at the invitation of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. It met with Poul Hartling, a high-ranking UN official and former Danish prime minister. Other meetings have been held on this subject and we have once again addressed the Salvadoran Government on this matter. I want to tell you that the repatriation of refugees, a voluntary repatriation, is established in international commitments and that as long as it is voluntary, no officially recognized international organization can oppose such a sovereign measure. This is so as long as it is a voluntary repatriation that is carried out through legal bilateral or multilateral means. Therefore, I do not see any problem and it is continuing its course.

[Question] Regarding the Nicaraguan Government's violation of the right of asylum, couldn't Costa Rica's attitude and Honduras' solidarity affect subsequent steps by the Contadora Group?

[Paz Barnica] No, not at all. Perhaps they might be delayed a few days but if the situation is resolved before mid-February, the meeting of plenipotentiaries -- and not of foreign ministers -- would be held. The objective of the meeting is to negotiate aspects of international verification and control with regard to the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation. This document must be feasible, applicable, and [word indistinct].

[Question] What can you tell us about the reports in some U.S. newspapers about members of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force or counterrevolutionaries being involved in the problem of missing people in Honduras?

[Paz Barnica] Well, I have no evidence of this. The communique issued by the Armed Forces in the last week of 1984 which preceded the report on the investigations into the cases of missing people touched upon that subject. If it were true that they have indeed been involved, this would be very serious, but I have no way of confirming those reports. I believe that investigations into the matter must continue because if human rights violations on the part of any Honduran, regardless of his rank or [word indistinct] constitute a grave infraction, more so in the case of foreigners violating Hondurans' human rights. This is all together unacceptable.

[Question] It has been reported that the pope will mediate in the Central American conflict.

[Paz Barnica] Yes, that has been announced. I believe that the Salvadoran Government and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul have already reacted to this. As you known, the pope, through a representative that he appointed to that mission, mediated in the Beagle conflict between Chile and Argentina and a solution acceptable to the two countries was attained. I believe that papal mediation in the Central American conflict would be extremely valuable because of its spiritual implications. The efforts of the Contadora Group would be strengthened and it would test the extent to which there is really freedom of religion in Central America.

[Question] Mr Secretary, how much progress does the administration expect to make on the border issue? Three years have gone by and the problem has not been solved; now only 11 months remain.

[Paz Barnica] Sometimes if there are 4 years to complete a task things advance faster in the last year. I do not want to make any predictions, although I am confident that we will reach a mutually satisfactory solution, be it through direct negotiation or by means of the International Court of Justice. The Honduran Government has defended and continues to honorably defend national interests in the border dispute with El Salvador. That much I can say. We are also stepping up negotiations. On Monday the joint commission will begin a new round of meetings in El Salvador. We must be confident that a solution will be reached. While the matter has always had priority in Honduran foreign policy, this year it will be even further emphasized.

[Question] Mr Secretary, everything seems to indicate, and Ramon Ernesto Cruz believes, that the Salvadoran and Honduran Governments will resolve their border problem at the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

[Paz Barnica] I read the statement by the distinguished former president of Honduras, my dear friend Ramon Ernesto Cruz, and I believe that if the problem is not resolved in its entirety through direct negotiations the need would arise to present the case, or part of it, before the international court. This is stipulated in the General Peace Treaty that was negotiated some years ago.

[Question] What do you think of former President Lopez Arellano's offer to act as mediator in the Central American conflict.

[Paz Barnica] Well, we are in constant communication with the other Central American countries to consult on Contadora-related matters. I want to point out that whenever we participate in the Contadora Group meetings, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and I customarily discuss a variety of subjects. For example, last November in Brasilia, where we met at the OAS General Assembly, in my capacity as foreign secretary of Honduras, I invited Nicaraguan Acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga to breakfast, which other Central American foreign ministers also attended. On that occasion, we had a very productive exchange of views. We have an ambassador in Managua and Managua has an ambassador in Tegucigalpa; they constitute another open channel of communication. I believe that the Contadora Group's mediating role should be strengthened, not diminished.

[Question] Is the mediation of Osvaldo Lopez Arellano unnecessary?

[Paz Barnica] That depends on the situation. I believe that General Lopez Arellano has made the offer in good faith, but Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama have a role to fulfill and I believe that this concept enjoys widespread recognition.

[Question] Why has the case of the plot against President Suazo Cordova, particularly reports that there were contacts inside Honduras, been shrouded in mystery?

[Paz Barnica] What mystery? I'm not sure what you mean. There was a plot and it was uncovered by the FBI, a U.S. intelligence and security organization that enjoys a great deal of prestige. Some people involved in the plot have been imprisoned; others will be extradited from Chile and sent to the United States, where the crime was committed. Investigations into the case continue and we are unable to say more because there is a trial under way in Miami.

I will not say anything that might interfere in such a sensitive case, which is now in the hands of the justice system. The case must be followed, but from a distance so that legal proceedings can be enforced.

[Question] Mr Secretary, will the Honduran Government uphold its position of not allowing Salvadoran troops to train at the Regional Military Training and Security Center [CREM] until the border problem is resolved?

[Paz Barnica] That is an excellent question. As you know, the training of Salvadoran soldiers was suspended many months ago. The Honduran Government, President Suazo, the chief of the Armed Forces, and the National Security Council were very clear in stating that resumption depends on progress in the border demarcation negotiations. Conversely, bilateral relations with El Salvador must follow certain guidelines and the CREM matter is part of Honduras' bilateral relations with the United States. Therefore, this must also be taken into consideration in the course of the negotiations that are being conducted between the Honduran and U.S. Governments based on Honduran Government proposals. I believe that a delegation from the United States will arrive in Honduras this week to continue discussing this and other topics.

[Question] Will the subject of compensating Temistocles Ramirez be discussed at that meeting?

[Paz Barnica] Well, this is also related to what I have said earlier. As you know, on the one hand the U.S. Government and Senate are demanding the payment of compensation to Temistocles Ramirez; on the other, Temistocles Ramirez owes a [word indistinct] of millions to the Honduran treasury in taxes. There is a special commission looking into this. It is a domestic and bilateral matter. Arbitration could determine who must pay. The commission is working hard and we are confident that an adequate solution will be found. [end recording]

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT CLARIFIES POSITION ON CONTADORA

PA220136 Paris AFP in Spanish 0054 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota, 21 Jan (AFP) -- Today the Honduran Foreign Secretariat ratified its attendance at the negotiations sponsored by the Contadora Group to seek peace in Central America, and denied that Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica had announced the withdrawal of that country from such talks. At the same time, a communique issued by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat ratifies the support and solidarity of that country with the Contadora efforts and announces its determination to continue promoting such a peace policy in the region.

This clarifies stories to the effect that Honduras had announced its withdrawal from these negotiations in solidarity with Costa Rica's diplomatic demands to Nicaragua. The text of the communique issued by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat, which was submitted to the Colombian Foreign Ministry by the Colombian ambassador in Tegucigalpa, states:

"1. At no time did the foreign secretary of the Republic say that Honduras was withdrawing from the negotiations sponsored by the Contadora Group, in which our country has actively participated and has the good intention of continuing to support.

"2. The secretary, Edgardo Paz Barnica, limited himself to stating that the Honduran Government is in solidarity with the Government of Costa Rica in its claim of the violation of the right to asylum, established by the Inter-American system, perpetrated by Nicaragua at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua.

"3. As a result of that violation and until the Government of Nicaragua apologizes, it was the Government of Costa Rica that announced its nonparticipation in any Contadora meeting.

"4. In view of that situation, Honduras will participate in any future meeting with the other corresponding nations to continue helping the pacification process in the area without prejudicing its democratic and fraternal solidarity with Costa Rica."

SUAZO HOLDS 'SECRET MEETING' WITH MCFARLANE

PA211631 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova held a secret meeting with Robert C. McFarlane, U.S. assistant to the President for national security affairs, last weekend. Between Thursday and Saturday the ranking U.S. official conducted secret meetings in all the Central American countries except Nicaragua. A source at the Honduran Presidency, who would give no major details, confirmed that the meeting between President Suazo Cordova and the U.S. security adviser took place. The U.S. Government radio station Voice of America also reported McFarlane's secret visit to Central America and his meeting with the Honduran president during its Sunday morning newscasts. According to that station, during their meeting the U.S. security adviser and President Suazo Cordova discussed the presence of Nicaraguan rebels in Honduran territory. It cited White House sources on that report. In Tegucigalpa there have been no official reports on the secret visit by the U.S. official, who is a right-hand man to U.S. President Reagan. It is not known if Honduran policy toward Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries has changed.

NICARAGUA

REACTION TO U.S. DECISIONS ON TALKS, HAGUE COURT

Talks Suspension 'Unfortunate'

PA182334 Paris AFP in Spanish 2258 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] United Nations, N.Y., 18 Jan (AFP) -- Nicaragua today described as "unfortunate" the U.S. decision to suspend the bilateral talks that were being held in Manzanillo, Mexico, and asked the United States to reflect on the consequences of this action. In a communique issued by the Nicaraguan Permanent Mission at the United Nations, the Nicaraguan Government stressed the fact that the suspension of the talks in Manzanillo coincides with the announcement by the United States of its boycott of the International Court of Justice deliberations regarding Nicaragua's complaints. "The Nicaraguan Government asks the United States to reflect on the implication of these actions, which do not contribute to the cause of peace in Central America," the communique states. The United States and Nicaragua have held nine rounds of bilateral negotations in Manzanillo.

Foreign Ministry Communique

PA190054 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 18 January]

[Text] In relation to today's decision by the U.S. Government to withdraw from the judicial procedures begun by Nicaragua on 9 April 1984 before the International Court of Justice demanding an end to the military and paramilitary activities against Nicaragua, the Foreign Ministry reports the following to the public:

The U.S. Government's decision constitutes a tangible negation of the most elemental principles that govern coexistence among nations and the equality between small and large nations. It is also a direct threat to the international systems for the maintenance of international peace and security. The U.S. rejection of the International Court of Justice radically separates that government from the international legal order and ratifies its warmongering policy based on the use of force as the prevailing principle in relations between weak and powerful nations, thus constituting one of the most dangerous and grave concepts for the future of humankind and world peace.

The Foreign Ministry also reports to the national and international public that yesterday, 17 January, the U.S. Government officially notified Nicaragua through its ambassador in Managua that it has decided to indefinitely suspend the negotiations that have been held in the port of Manzanillo, Mexico. Nicaragua expresses its concern over the U.S. Government's sudden and unjustified decision that hinders the effort for the normalization of relations between Nicaragua and the United States and the stabilization of the Central American region.

It must be recalled that the U.S. Government's decision comes precisely 9 days after the Contadora Group urged the U.S. and Nicaraguan Governments to intensify the dialogue they have been holding in Manzanillo to reach agreements that will favor the normalization of their relations and regional detente, as the 9 January communique issued by the Contadora Group stated. The U.S. Government's decision also constitutes a unilateral violation of the agreement to hold the 10th round of talks in the second half of January 1985 in Manzanillo, Mexico.

One must note the coincidence of these lamentable decisions to reject the International Court of Justice and to suspend indefinitely the Manzanillo talks with other factors that are lately being used to hinder the Contadora Group's efforts. These factors are the pressures that the U.S. Government is exerting on Costa Rica and Honduras so that these countries will not participate in the meeting called by Contadora on 14 and 15 February and the obstacles placed against the continuation of the talks between the Nicaraguan Government and the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity.

In view of these actions that are an attack on the most elemental norms of civilized coexistence among nations, Nicaragua reiterates its firm desire to continue to undertake efforts to normalize its bilateral relations with the U.S. Government in order to advance towards the definite reestablishment of peace in the Central American region.

Managua, Nicaragua, 18 January 1985

[Signed] Foreign Ministry

Ortega Terms Suspension 'Grave'

PA190103 Paris AFP in Spanish 0002 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Managua, 18 Jan (AFP) -- Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega today described as "grave" the rupture in the dialogue which the United States had been conducting with his country since last year, in Manzanillo, Mexico. "The situation is grave," Ortega said when he confirmed that the U.S. Government has "indefinitely suspended" the talks.

During an exclusive interview with a Mexican television station, to which AFP had access in this capital, the Nicaraguan president accused the Reagan administration of trying to impose "a policy of force" in Central America by suspending the Manzanillo dialogue.

Ortega added that this strategy also includes "efforts to undermine the Contadora Group's peace initiative," asserting that the U.S. Government is "blackmailing" Costa Rica and Honduras, countries which this week announced that they will not participate in future Contadora Group meetings. "The U.S. Government's philosophy is to annihilate the Sandinist revolution, and this can only lead to the failure of the peace initiative and further complicate the situation," he asserted. Ortega asserted that the United States "must admit that Nicaragua cannot be defeated in the military sector or through an economic boycott." In addition, he issued a call to the international community to exert pressure on the Reagan administration to renew the Manzanillo talks and also stop "undermining" the Contadora Group's efforts. "The U.S. Administration will surely try to blame us" for the suspension of the dialogue and the problems that currently afflict the Contadora process, "with the intention of creating bipartisan support for its policy toward Central America," the Nicaraguan leader said. "We are ready to continue struggling to achieve a peaceful solution," said Ortega, who also issued a call to the Honduran and Costa Rican Governments to "avoid falling into the blackmail trap." "I believe that these nations' and peoples' real goal is to achieve peace," said the Sandinist leader, who insisted that "the current situation is much graver." "It is a struggle between the U.S. position of force and Nicaragua's efforts to achieve a negotiated solution," Ortega concluded, when defining the current situation.

D'Escoto on Hague Court Decision

PA190128 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2327 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Managua, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said today that the United States has assumed a stance of "open rebellion against international law" by announcing its decision not to participate in discussions at the International Court of Justice at The Hague regarding the mining of Nicaraguan ports. In statements to La Voz de Nicaragua, the official radio station, D'Escoto said that the United States has expressed its determination "to return to the law of the jungle," and that this "represents a grave danger for peace and security in the international community, and particularly, small countries." According to D'Escoto, the U.S. Administration's stance regarding the The Hague court implies "an acknowledgement of guilt."

Regarding the United States, D'Escoto said: "No single country in the world has proclaimed its support for the The Hague court more vigorously." He added: "Obviously, the U.S. Government knows the case is lost for them." Later, he said that what happened is a "bad omen" now that only a few days are left before President Ronald Reagan begins his second term.

The foreign minister also said: "The determination to ignore legal norms in its relations with other states and to use force is to return to the law of the jungle, where the strongest makes his will prevail over others."

Deputy Minister Tinoco Comments

PA191450 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1351 GMT 19 Jan 85

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government believes that in suspending the bilateral talks by Manzanillo (Mexico), the United States "is closing the doors to a rational understanding."

Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, in an exclusive interview with ACAN-EFE, charged that there is a "clear-cut policy" in Washington to "reject anything like a dialogue or rational understanding." "Manzanillo signified the possibility that a fundamental step could be taken toward peace in Central America, such as an understanding between the United States and Nicaragua," the Sandinist official stated.

Tinoco, together with Harry Shlaudeman, White House special envoy for Central America, headed the delegations of Managua and Washington which last 10 December held the ninth round of talks in the Mexican port. In the bilateral talks the Sandinists and the North Americans have discussed common problems and matters of security for both countries, although they were not publicly reported. Nicaragua had proposed in writing that the tenth round of talks be held on 24 and 25 January in the same place, but the White House did not accept this.

While the United States wanted to change the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America, Nicaragua insisted that the framework of the Manzanillo talks should serve to normalize relations between Managua and Washington, diplomatic sources stated here. Nicaragua's proposal was viewed by the White House a "an obstacle" to contuning the secret deliberations, Tinoco stated. "I cannot see how the United States can continue saying in the future that it supports Contadora while it continues to stage military maneuvers and suspends the Manzanillo talks against the recommendations of Contadora, made up of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama," the deputy foreign minister said.

The Sandinist official said that U.S. Navy aircraft carriers remain anchored off the Nicaraguan coasts, despite the fact that these movements have been condemned by the countries of the Contadora Group.

Tinoco stressed that Nicaragua will keep the details of the results of the Manzanillo talks secret, because it will continue its efforts "to make the United States understand that the stance it has adopted does not aid the search for peaceful solutions in the region."

The deputy foreign minister said that the Reagan administration, in addition to being absent at the deliberations of The Hague court, has abandoned Manzanillo and is pressuring the Governments of Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica to boycott the upcoming meeting of the Contadora Group, scheduled for 14 and 15 February in Panama.

Ambassador to U.S. Remarks

PA201945 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] The United States is placing itself in a very difficult position by withdrawing from The Hague international court because it was one of the countries that signed the court's charter, Carlos Tunnerman Bernheim, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, has told Radio Sandino. In an exclusion interview, Tunnerman briefly analyzed the effects of the Reagan administration's decision to break ties with The Hague court and to withdraw from the talks with Nicaragua in Manzanillo, Mexico.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What are the repercussions at the diplomatic level in the face of the U.S. decision to withdraw from The Hague international court and to suspend the Manzanillo talks?

[Tunnerman] Newspapers here have highlighted the matter about the court. This U.S. decision means an end to its participation in the International Court of Justice. The news about Manzanillo was announced later, so there have been fewer comments about it.

However, the decision about the court has resulted in comments, including those of Congress members, who disagree with the measure. It has prompted much public criticism. Democratic Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island has said that it is not right for the United States to withdraw from the court. He noted that this aggravates the bad image the United States had already gained because of the mining of Nicaraguan ports. Michael Barnes, representative from Maryland, has also criticized the U.S. withdrawal from the court. It is expected that there will be commentaries and editorials on this matter in the next few days. The two most important newspapers here on the east coast, THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST, have published editorials in the past saying that the United States should participate in the court, but it is now withdrawing. These newspapers had maintained that the United States should know how to defend itself and should have the arguments to defend its position at the court. But the U.S. withdrawal from the court now shows that it does not have any arguments to present.

The U.S. Government claims that it is withdrawing because the forum that [word indistinct] is propaganda for Nicaragua. The truth is that this withdrawal places the United States in a difficult position because the international court was created with U.S. support. The United States even signed the charter creating it. The court declared itself competent to hear the Nicaraguan case. The U.S. position [words indistinct] the international juridical order and places the United States outside international law because it is refusing to participate in a legal discussion, a discussion that will establish if what it is doing to Nicaragua is legal. [end recording]

ORTEGA DISCUSSES MANZANILLO, CONTADORA, CASTRO

PA220547 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0325 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Press conference by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua; questioners not identified -- live]

[Text] [Question] We would like to know the outcome of your meeting with U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz?

[Ortega] We met with Congressman Solarz and, naturally, we talked about the latest incidents of tension that have arisen, about the Central America situation, especially the Contadora Group peace efforts, and also Manzanillo. We clearly expressed Nicaragua's opinion on the matter because we believe that the United States is trying to shirk its responsibility in view of Central American problems in order to strengthen the military solution. We could say that the fact that the United States has affected the Manzanillo meetings by suspending the talks indefinitely is also something that harms the Contadora efforts. We cannot totally divorce the Manzanillo talks from Contadora; we believe that Manzanillo has been or was a very important element with regard to progress in the Contadora talks and meetings. We could say that this is one of the major issues we discussed with the congressman.

[Question] Commander, what is the importance of the congressman's visit?

[Ortega] The congressman has always adopted a rather favorable attitude toward a peaceful solution to the current Central American problems. We could say that this is an important element which must be kept in mind since some time ago, thanks to the congressman's initiative, the U.S. Congress unanimously supported the Contadora Group's peace efforts. Therefore, he represents a very active element in the U.S. Congress, is concerned about the region's problems, and at the same time is concerned about finding a peaceful solution to the problem. The congressman's visit is of great importance because it comes at a time of recent clashes when the United States unexpectedly withdrew from the Manzanillo talks.

[Words indistinct] because we recently met on 10 January. Here in Managua we met with the Contadora Group representatives and we told them about the importance we attach to the Manzanillo talks. We did not think that the talks hindered or went against the Contadora Group's effort, but rather we felt it was something that enhanced that effort. Expectations rose out of the Contadora effort, out of the Manzanillo talks. Now, the United States has suspended the Manzanillo effort and simultaneously ignored the international legal aspect by refusing to accept the charges presented at the International Court of Justice. In sum, we believe that these actions are very serious for Latin America's efforts carried out through the Contadora Group.

[Question] Commander, from now on what will be Nicaragua's position?

[Ortega] Well, we are going to continue to strive for a political solution, a peaceful solution, to promote the return of the United States to the Manzanillo talks. Thus, it is very important that the United States return to the Manzanillo talks as soon as possible. In that way, the United States could begin a real commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the problems.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, this would go against the interests of the Central American peoples, against the Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Salvadoran and the Honduran peoples' interests. That really affects Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. The countries that [words indistinct] solution to that sense. In fact, this does not benefit the Latin American peace efforts through the Contadora Group or the trust that to some extent the peoples of those countries have given to their governments [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We said a few days ago that there have been four disturbing, coincidental, and simultaneous elements in the peace efforts. The first two are the U.S. decision to withdraw from Manzanillo and the decision by the Government of Costa Rica, seconded by Honduras and El Salvador, to condition their participation within the Contadora Group and therefore threaten the next Contadora meeting. In the third place, the dialogue in Bogota with the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity has also been affected and now it turns out that it seems they are even expelling Brooklyn Rivera from Misurasata for having allegedly met with Nicaragua without the support of the leaders of the group. Another element is the disregard for the decisions made by the International Court of Justice. This means that the respect for international law is being disregarded, as well as international law in regard to the International Court of Justice, and the obligation that all states have, including the United States, to solve all of these problems through peaceful means and the use of dialogue. The use of dialogue is established in the UN letter of principles, which is recognized by the United States, and is being violated.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] The most important element in the Manzanillo talks is that Nicaragua is [words indistinct] the United States, trying to make that country see the importance of truly defining the nature of the talks that were being held in Manzanillo. What is the nature of the talks? Nicaragua and the United States met there to confront each other. Of course, we discussed what is being discussed by the Contadora Group so that later the Contadora Group could continue its effort. We met in Manzanillo to try to find a way to establish the basis that would allow us to normalize relations between the United States and Nicaragua, and thus effectively help the Contadora Group.

The U.S. position was that Manzanillo was simply an exchange of opinions between the United States and Nicaragua so that Nicaragua could go off and make agreements with other Central American countries at the Contadora Group meetings. To us, this shows a lack of seriousness because it does not commit the United States to the responsibility that it has in the Central American problem. As we can see, the United States is not committed to any serious decision regarding Central America. In Contadora it does not participate alongside the Central American countries. The United States should participate because it is an important and basic part of the conflict. In Manzanillo the United States shirked its responsibility. In Manzanillo it was an effort for the United States to accept a serious negotiation, a serious talk that would permit the normalization of relations between the United States and Nicaragua within a medium-term time limit. To the extent that we advanced in this regard in Manzanillo, we would undoubtedly advance within the Contadora Group. It is in response to these statements that the United States has responded by withdrawing from Manzanillo.

[Question] [Words indistinct] the U.S. Government has broken off the talks in Manzanillo until Congress decides whether to continue support to the contras. Is this the basis of the discussion at the talks, or is it something more final?

[Ortega] In reality, with regard to the contras this proposal would seem to contradict the interests voiced by the administration. It would seem that these measures would not help them find votes in their favor because they are the violators. However, they could also be trying to impose a situation where [words indistinct] the Congress. There is already talk about postponing the discussions that were to be held in February or March until May in order to begin discussing the (?MX) missiles. It would seem an effort to create this situation, because they say there is no possibility of a negotiated solution in Central America because of the Nicaraguans, Contadora has been affected because of the Nicaraguans, and in Manzanillo it made no sense to continue because of the Nicaraguans. What they will do is approve the budget to make war on the Nicaraguans and make them understand [passage indistinct] that the administration has carried out.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] On 10 January we announced a broad, very broad policy regarding all Nicaraguans who are directly or indirectly involved in the counterrevolutionary movement to put down their arms and return to the country through a [word indistinct] arms to the Governments of Hondoras and Costa Rica, and to [words indistinct] with the respective governments and the Red Cross, and to come to the border posts to turn over their arms, thus showing their acceptance of this proposal. Tomorrow we will send a bill on a decree so the National Constituent Assembly can study it [words indistinct]. It would benefit all of the persons involved in armed counterrevolutionary activities.

[Question] [Words indistinct] relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua?

[Ortega] The situation has deteriorated a great deal, but it is the result of a completely artificial action. I do not think it is the result of problems caused by the Nicaraguan or Costa Rican Governments, but the result of problems artificially created by the U.S. policy in Costa Rica. The United States wants to make the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments confront each other. They are trying to force a break in relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. There is great pressure in Costa Rica at this time by the government, and some business groups have even said publicly that the government is acting as an agent of U.S. policies and demanding a break in relations. These are the positions that make the peace efforts under way in Central America [word indistinct] against the (?dialogue) defended by the Costa Rican Government [words indistinct].

It is clear that the United States is trying to commit the Costa Rican Government to break relations with Nicaragua, which surely would not benefit the Costa Rican people, the Costa Rican Government, or the peoples of Central America.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] It is a broad amnesty without (?exceptions) of any kind. [Words indistinct] anyone who wants to accept it is welcome to do so.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, the details on this will be known tomorrow. I cannot give much advance information.

[Question] What is the significance of Commander Fidel Castro's visit and the $76.8-million donation from the Cuban people and government to Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Well, we feel that the Cuban president's visit to Nicaragua falls within that Latin American spirit that [words indistinct]. It was also evidence of the fraternal relations between Cuba and Nicaragua because we broke the isolation the United States tried to impose on this activity when the Cuban Government sent its highest representative to these activities. The United States pressured various Latin American governments so they would not send delegations to Nicaragua and thus isolate Nicaragua during such an important event. However, we feel the Latin American governments were amply represented, especially Cuba. In the framework of the inauguration activities we dedicated the Victoria de Julio sugar mill. Cuba participated very specifically in the project's construction. Therefore, we had a debt with Cuba that the president of Cuba canceled as an example of the state of relations between the two governments. I believe it is an example of how relations should be between the countries of the North and South, of how relations should be between the international financial system and the developing countries -- the countries that have limited resources -- rather than submitting these countries to rigorous regimes, difficult situations, pressures, and economic measures that do not in fact help solve their economic problems. On the contrary, they aggravate the economic problems.

[Question] (?Is amnesty the first step towards dialogue?)

[Ortega] Well, we have said that the dialogue with the contras is in fact a dialogue with the United States, which is the contras' boss. What we are doing here is taking very specific measures regarding the Nicaraguans who have committed themselves to counterrevolutionary activities so that they, without conditions of any kind, can accept the shelter of the guarantees and return to a normal life in our country by turning in their weapons to the Government of Honduras or Costa Rica, depending on where they have their camps, or by coming to our country's border or military posts.

[Question] According to the Sandinists' analysis, why did the U.S. Government, or President Reagan, make that decision a few days before his inauguration?

[Ortega] One must take into consideration the importance and impact of the U.S. [word indistinct] on the inauguration ceremonies. It is also possible that the decision was to appear as a decision made by the previous administration although [words indistinct], but it appears as having been made by an administration that gained strength yesterday and today during the inauguration ceremonies.

In this way there is no commitment in the image of President Reagan who today assumed (?the presidency) with an action that so violates [words indistinct], withdrawing from the International Court of Justice, and compromising it only after having reassumed the presidency of the United States.

[Question] Would the amnesty ignore the murders committed by the contras along our borders?

[Ortega] We are not ignoring the murders committed by the contras along our borders. We believe that the Nicaraguan people want and demand peace and that the companeros who have died, the companeros who have fallen, and those who are falling every day do want to see more deaths in Nicaragua. In order to achieve, to attain this we want [word indistinct]. One must take into consideration that countries like Vietnam, for example, granted amnesty and pardoned agents and war criminals [words indistinct]. Therefore, what we are doing here is not new. We are [words indistinct] that correspond to the Nicaraguan people's desire for peace, their determination to continue the fight against those who do not accept this pardon. However, it is still something that must be discussed in the National Assembly tomorrow. We expect it to have the appropriate support.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, those are certain groups that do not live in Nicaragua, that do not realize that we held elections, that we have a National Constituent Assembly, and that this National Constituent Assembly is where the national dialogue will be held. On the other hand, the Sandinist Front will maintain the position of holding and maintaining consultations within the National Constituent Assembly with all political forces that want to make their opinions felt. They can do so with the drafting of the constitution. We cannot now try to create a parallel body to the National Assembly, which has the backing of the Nicaraguan people.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, this is within the spirit and duty of Nicaragua to have greater contacts with the Central American governments. We also pointed out here that we would stimulate more communication, more contacts with the other Central American governments. Accordingly, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera will leave for Tegucigalpa tomorrow to hold meetings with the corresponding authorities.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, we expect international and U.S. public opinion will make the U.S. Government realize that it is necessary to return to the talks in Manzanillo.

BORGE ON ASYLUM ISSUE WITH COSTA RICA, CONTADORA

PA201653 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez, member of the FSLN National Directorate and interior minister, stated yesterday that Nicaragua will make efforts so that the peace efforts of the Contadora Group do not fail. The Contadora Group has the support of the entire world, and any obscure maneuver promoted by the Reagan administration to boycott it will have to face humankind, Borge noted.

Commenting on the possibility of Nicaragua establishing a dialogue leading to an understanding with the Costa Rican Government, Borge said that possibility always exists.

Meanwhile, he ruled out the feasibility of Costa Rica's invoking the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, TIAR, because that organization was discredited after the Malvinas problem. He also called the U.S. withdrawal from The Hague court and from the talks it was holding with Nicaragua in Manzanillo a savage act. The United States is taking positions that are only viable in a society where the law of the jungle prevails, he said.

Borge made these remarks when participating as the main speaker in a political-pedagogical training course organized by the National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers [ANDEN] which will last 3 days and is aimed at informing teachers about the country's situation. At this event Borge announced that on Friday, 18 January, two Nicaraguan teachers who were picking coffee in the northern area were killed by the mercenary bands that abuse our people. The murdered teachers were Marvin Vallecillo and Melania Morales, who were picking coffee in Jinotega when they were attacked by the assassins financed by the Reagan administration.

In part of his speech Borge urged the teachers to continue to be an ideological vanguard detachment for the revolution, with ANDEN at the forefront. The interior minister added: The politicians on this continent and U.S. imperialism must be aware that this revolution will never be blackmailed. In referring to the attitude adopted by the Governments of Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador in withdrawing from the Contadora Group's meeting and claiming that Nicaragua violated the right to political asylum in the Urbina Lara case, Commander Borge was categorical in saying that regardless of the price the Nicaraguan people have to pay, they will not be blackmailed by anything or anybody. Urbina Lara will have to comply with the law because he violated the Patriotic Military Service law, Borge said. The commander of the revolution noted that in view of the fact that they do not have well-documented accusations against Nicaragua, the Reagan administration is using the Urbina Lara case as a pretext to further aggravate the Central American situation.

At the opening of the fourth ANDEN political-pedagogical course held at Auditorium No 12 of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, Borge added that the United States, in its zeal to escalate the aggression against the Sandinist revolutionary process, accused Nicaragua of violating the right to asylum. Using convincing arguments, Borge Martinez disclosed that the Urbina Lara case is being manipulated and distorted with the sole purpose of obstructing the Contadora Group's efforts and justifying any action taken by imperialism against the Nicaraguan revolution. Here are his remarks.

[Begin recording] This case is not the subject of any international controversy but has been the pretext used to aggravate the Central American situation and relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. We are being accused of violating the right to asylum by pulling this individual out of the Costa Rican Embassy. Who is going to believe that we would be so clumsy, dumb, and stupid as to have entered the embassy of a neighboring country to pull out a poor devil who is inside and thus endanger relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica? Who would think we would make such big mistake? What sense would it make to enter the embassy of a neighboring country to pull out a young man there? In other words, isn't there enough proof in this country of the respect which Nicaragua and the revolution have for political asylum? In the first years after the victory... [rephrases] In the first few months and weeks the embassies of many Latin American countries were full of Somozists and assassins. They were individuals whom the people hated very much. When did we ever think... [rephrases] not even back then when there were no serious controls of a police or institutional nature as we have now and when there was no special police organization called [words indistinct] to protect embassies of doing this?

We would have to be the most idiotic politicians in the world for us to go or send somebody to pull a poor devil out of an embassy knowing that this would bring about a serious deterioration in the relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Therefore, all these claims that we violated the right to asylum are baseless. They are illogical and completely false. They have not even been analyzed. No great effort is required to realize that we are not going to be so clumsy as to make that mistake. Even the Costa Rican foreign minister declared that Urbina Lara had been arrested outside the embassy. But the truth is that that is not the problem. Everyone is aware that it is only a pretext. Let's analyze what happened.

On 7 January, the Costa Rican Government charged that Nicaraguan boats had entered Costa Rican waters in the Atlantic. On 8 January, the Costa Rican Government informed the Mexican foreign secretary that Costa Rica would maintain a position beside El Salvador and Honduras in the peace negotiations for Central America. On 9 January Shlaudeman arrived in Guatemala to report on the Manzanillo talks. On 9 January, Shlaudeman continued his trip and stated in Tegucigalpa that Nicaragua continues to be a problem for Central America. On the same day, 9 January, President Reagan stated at a press conference that the United States will continue to support those who fight for democracy in Nicaragua. On the same day, 9 January, Costa Rica said that the future of peace in Central America is at stake following the violation of the right to asylum. Shlaudeman, Reagan, and the Costa Rican Government all said this.

On 10 January the U.S. Defense Department announced that the maneuvers with Honduras will include antitank operations and naval exercises with the aircraft carrier Nimitz and the battleship Iowa. On 11 January President Monge stressed that he will show no more consideration for Nicaragua and that he may invoke the TIAR. On the same day, Costa Rica announced that it was withdrawing from the Contadora negotiations indefinitely. In fact, it even tried to take this case to the OAS, where it has had no success. A few days later, Honduras and El Salvador announced that they are also withdrawing from Contadora. All this because of a single pretext. All this because we allegedly pulled a young man who had sought asylum out of the Costa Rican Embassy; after thousands of Somozists had stayed at the embassies and we never put a foot inside them or tried to violate the right to asylum. But now that we have institutions formed, a police created, and everything working fine, a pretext emerges -- it could have been any pretext, today this, tomorrow another -- to worsen relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. [end recording]

To this we must add, Borge remarked, the actions taken in the past few days by President Reagan which have created a grave situation.

[Being recording] What is paradoxical is that yesterday the U.S. Government announced that it is suspending the Manzanillo talks to facilitate the Contadora negotiations. At the same time, they are using this pretext to eliminate Contadora. In other words, they want to eliminate the Manzanillo and Contadora negotiations. Of course, this is no coincidence. Regardless of how ridiculous the pretext they are using is, the situation, unfortunately, has taken a very serious and grave turn.

Who is attacked? Please, allow me to say: It is we and not they who are being attacked. We are the ones being attacked, and they want us to look like the aggressors. Where are all the men, women, and children killed every day through actions by counterrevolutionary forces that come from Honduras and Costa Rica? Who are the victims of ambushes? Where are production units attacked? Where are ports mined? Where are teachers and health workers kidnapped and murdered? Who killed Melania Morales and Marvin Vallecillo yesterday? They were two Nicaragua teachers. All this is occurring in Nicaragua and not in Costa Rica or Honduras. And they still claim that we are the aggressors and are endangering peace in Central America.

Speaking only about Costa Rica, isn't it true that a sector of the counterrevolution has its [word indistinct] and its sanctuary? We have protested this. We have said this in various ways and at various levels, but we have never taken the attitude of using a pretext to end the negotiations, despite the fact that most of the crimes against our country originate there.

Isn't it true that in several areas of Costa Rica -- and we know which ones they are -- Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] mercenaries concentrate? It is or is it not true that -- and this was made public -- (John Hall), a U.S. citizen living in Costa Rica, admitted publicly on 16 October 1984 that the airstrips on his farms located in the San Carlos plains were used by counterrevolutionary planes and helicopters?

What would happen here if enemies of the Costa Rican Government established camps here, built airstrips, and used planes and helicopters to attack Costa Rican territory? Is it or is it not true that top commanders of the Costa Rican Civil Guard in Guanacaste [word indistinct] that beginning in mid-January, FDN members arrived in that province to occupy positions on the border with Nicaragua? Where the hell is Radio Impacto, a counterrevolutionary radio station that is operating legally despite the fact that it is a spokesman of the counterrevolution? It operates in Costa Rica. Isn't it true that Radio Impacto, the voice of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE], (?said) that the arrival of FDN mercenaries was causing friction with ARDE and that this situation could result in the Lebanization of Costa Rica?

Isn't it true that in Penas Brujas, 5 km southeast of Penas Blancas, hundreds of counterrevolutionaries are constantly moving about? These counterrevolutionaries have attacked border posts in Cardenas, Orosi, and Penas Blancas on several occasions.

How can it be possible that all these things are happening with the entire world's knowledge and consent? How can it be possible that they come and assassinate us from Costa Rica and then accuse us of being assassins? How can it be possible that they come from Costa Rica to spill the blood of Nicaraguans and then accuse us of violating the life and property of Costa Ricans? How can it be possible that we, who are the victims, are accused of being the murderers? We have paid a dear price with our blood. How can it be possible that a young man who sought asylum at an embassy, who left that embassy, and who, the Costa Rican foreign minister admitted, was captured outside the embassy can cause such a big scandal when we haven't said much about all the crimes that are carried out from that country? [end recording]

In conclusion, the interior minister urged the international public to understand that the haste of all these incidents, exacerbated by the White House, is aimed at heightening the Central American crisis.

[Begin recording] It is important that the international public understand that the haste of all these incidents, exacerbated by the current U.S. Administration, is aimed at heightening the crisis being experienced in the region. They have chosen confrontation over negotiation.

The decision to destroy us has not changed one bit, just as the complicity, the cowardice, and the (?weakness) of certain Central American politicians have not changed. They don't blush in shame when they witness how a small country, a country with enormous difficulties of all kinds, is being attacked by a big power. On the contrary, in one way or another they become accomplices of the big power against that small country. [end recording]

ATTENDANCE AT FEB CONTADORA MEETING CONFIRMED

PA181748 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 17 January]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, in view of reports that the Costa Rican and Honduran Governments will not attend the meeting of plenipotentiary ministers that the Contadora Group has called for 14 and 15 February, reports:

The Nicaraguan Government hereby states that it is fully willing to attend the meeting that the Contadora Group has called for 14 and 15 February to bring about the signing of the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America. At the same time, Nicaragua wishes to reiterate that it is willing to immediately sign the peace document presented by the Contadora Group on 7 September. The Nicaraguan Government expresses its serious concern over the pressures exerted by the U.S. Government on Honduras and Costa Rica to obstruct and defeat the Contadora Group's efforts for peace in the area.

Contrary to the policy of the Honduran and Costa Rican Governments, the Nicaraguan Government has never sought reasons to obstruct the meetings called by the Contadora Group, despite the uninterrupted war of aggression that the U.S. Government maintains against our people. Nicaragua has always attended and will continue to attend the Contadora Group meetings to achieve peace and regional detente. As we express our concern over these attitudes which in no way contribute to the negotiations for peace in the area, the Nicaraguan Government reaffirms its sustained support for the diplomatic efforts of the Contadora Group and makes an urgent call to the United States to cease obstructing the efforts to attain peace in the area.

D'ESCOTO SCORES U.S. 'BLOCKADE' OF CONTADORA

PA191918 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Jan 85 p 5

[Statement by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto on 17 January; place not given]

[Text] I think it is evident that we are facing a new maneuver of the Reagan administration to maintain "an effective blockade" of Contadora. In early December of last year a document issued by the U.S. National Security Council was made public. In that document Reagan advisers bragged about "having effectively blocked" the signing of the Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America presented by Contadora. They also bragged about having used Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica to either introduce into the document the reforms that the U.S. Government wanted or to block the signing of the document. That is, if the reforms were not introduced, the document was not to be signed.

This whole campaign mounted in Costa Rica by the media at the service of foreign interests has been aimed at damaging the relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua to help the Reagan administration obtain the millions it is seeking from Congress to continue financing the criminal CIA mercenaries that attack our people every day. It is obvious that the furor over the person who sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy and who was later arrested is also aimed at pressuring the Costa Rican Government into hardening its position and refusing to continue participating in the Contadora negotiations process.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Honduras has already been ordered by Washington to refuse continued participation in Contadora, as Costa Rica has done. This is nothing new in view of the document issued by the U.S. National Security Council. These two Central American governments had already been used, together with that of El Salvador, to effectively block the act. The sad part is that the policy of following Washington's orders is being maintained when what these governments should do is heed the Central American cry for peace. Nicaragua, as always, will continue cooperating as much as possible with the noble efforts being made by the countries and governments that compose the Contadora Group to secure a just and lasting peace in Central America, a peace that will guaranteee respect for the sovereignty of all the states, nonintervention, the right to self-determination, and the security of the countries of the area.

PROTEST NOTE SENT TO HONDURAS ON 18 JAN ATTACK

PA190427 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0359 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Protest note sent to the Honduran Government by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 18 January; read by spokesman Manuel Espinoza -- live]

[Text] Managua, 18 January 1985

Your Excellency, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica:

I refer Your Excellency to the following grave events:

At 1650 today, 18 January, a terrorist commando group coming from Honduran territory blew up two high-tension towers located approximately 2 km northeast of Somotillo with special explosives. Similar actions took place on 10 January whan a mercenary commando group destroyed four high-tension towers in Jinotega Department. On this occasion, the sabotaged high tension towers connected electric power between our countries, permitting an extensive energy cooperation during those times of the year that Honduras requires such services.

At a time when the Honduran Government has publicly expressed its decision to expel the mercenary bands form the territory, one's attention is drawn to these criminal actions that show the impotence of those who, unable to make our people yield, carry out attacks on civilian populations, productive centers, and infrastructure installations.

The Nicaraguan Government is also concerned that these actions are taking place precisely at the critical moment when the U.S. Government's increasing its pressures to make the Contadora Group peace efforts fail, has unilaterally suspended the meetings with Nicaragua, and refuses to appear before the International Court of Justice.

In presenting its most formal and vigorous protest over the aforementioned actions, the Nicaraguan Government firmly reiterates its call for your government to proceed to truly and effectively reduce, disarm, and remove the mercenary bands that operate in your territory at the service of the U.S. Govenrment from the border as a prior step for their definite expulsion from Honduras.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my regards.

[Signed] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman

32 PASSENGERS, 8 CREW DIE IN PLANE CRASH

FL192100 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2035 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Excerpt] This morning at approximately 0823, 5 minutes after taking off from Jose Marti International Airport, a passenger plane from Cubana Aviation Airlines crashed.

The plane, on its regular CU1462 Havana-Managua flight, crashed in the Menocal area, in the Havana Province municipality of San Jose de Las Lajas.

The 8 crew members and 32 passengers died in the accident, the cause of which is unknown at this time.

Castro, Veiga Attend Funeral

FL212226 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party's Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, attended the funeral held this morning at Colon cemetery for the victims of last Saturday's airplane accident.

The funeral procession started from the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], and ended at the cemetery in Havana, where thousands of people representing worker and student groups paid tribute to those who died in a solemn demonstration of popular mourning.

Among those presiding at the funeral, next to Politburo and Central Committee members, was an official Nicaraguan delegation which included among other presonalities, Minister of Education Fernando Cardenal.

Many floral wreaths were sent to the funeral and the coffins were covered with the Cuban flag.

Once the Guarnicion de la Habana band played the national anthem and three salvos were fired, Roberto Veiga, alternate Politburo member and secretary general of the CTC, gave the eulogy.

After saying that the people had fulfilled in a moving way the hard and painful responsibility of burying the victims of the accident, he said that the Cubana airplane was not carrying flammable or explosive material and that an investigation was being conducted to find out the cause of the accident.

Veiga added that Saturday's flight was just one more in the normal Havana-Managua run, which had started after the triumph of the Sandinist revolution.

He said this loss of lives was made even more painful because none of the victims on the flight were on a pleasure trip as tourists, but were internationalist collaborators.

In another part of his speech, Veiga expressed the condolences of the working class and all of the people to the families of the victims, whose memory will never be forgotten.

He especially remembered Captain Diosmemdes Matos Fonseca and the crew members of the Cubana flight and referred to the sorrow of Comrade Mayans and Nicaragua's Ambassador Marcos Valles who respectively lost a wife and children.

Veiga ended his speech quoting a poet, that today's pain will be transformed into a mourning of labor and hope. [as heard]

Many letters of condolence are being received at the CTC offices, the Nicaraguan Embassy in Havana, and at the victims workplaces.

HAVANA RADIO NOTES REAGAN INAUGURAL SPEECH

FL212034 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1911 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Many strange things can be found in an alienated and corrupt society such as in the United States: for example, President Ronald Reagan.

In his inaugural speech for his second term in office, the resident of the White House said with an incredible amount of cynicism, that the United States must continue to be the firmest stronghold of freedom, because we are our best ally and the world's only hope in overcoming poverty and preserving peace.

And, as if this brazenness were not enough, he then said that human freedom was advancing more today in our hemisphere than in any other place.

One must ask, what does Reagan understand by freedom and peace. To what does Reagan refer to when he talks about freedom? To imperialistic preponderance and the right that they abrogate to freely intervene in the domestic affairs of Latin America? What right does the president of a government that violates the most basic human rights have to talk about peace and freedom? That continues to aggravate the arms race, that obstructs the peace efforts of governments and the world's progressive forces, including those of the socialist camp? And, that provides unconditional support to genocidal regimes?

But, Mr Reagan's statements should not amaze us, because hyprocrisy and cynicism are qualities inherent to Yankee imperialism and in the "American way, always." [preceding words in English]

Military To Be Strengthened

FL220202 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Starting his second term of office as head of the U.S. Government, President Ronald Reagan has reaffirmed his intention to reinforce the country's military strength.

At a special ceremony at the Capitol, Reagan said the United States did not achieve peace and freedom solely on the basis of good intentions, and repeated that he will not hesitate to increase the nation's defense capability. Reagan said that included an eventual militarization of space.

SOVIET FLOTILLA ENDS 'OFFICIAL, FRIENDLY' VISIT

PA200328 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0710 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Havana, 18 Jan (EFE) -- A Soviet naval flotilla that had been in Cuba since 28 December ended its "official and friendly" visit to the island today.

The flotilla consisting of two frigates, one destroyer, one submarine, and a supply vessel sailed from its anchorage in Havana. There had been no official report of its departure until now.

During its stay on the island, the Soviet detachement, the second to visit Cuba in 1984, carried out cultural activities, meetings with members of the Cuban Navy, and tours of naval academies and tourist and historical sites.

However, it seems that they did not conduct maneuvers in Cuban waters because they were anchored in Havana Bay during the entire visit.

During a press conference, Vice Admiral V.P. Ryabov, commander of the Soviet flotilla, denied that any maneuvers had been planned, but that there would be an exchange of experiences between "comrades of ideas and arms." He said that it would be "very advantageous to improve the defensive attitude and capacity of both sides."

The frigates Zadorniy and Razitelniy have a displacement of 3,800 tons and are 122 meters in length, while the destroyer Otlichniy has a displacement of 7,500 tons. According to U.S. sources, they are equipped with antisubmarine and guided missiles.

CUSTOMS PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION

FL211952 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] A protocol for cooperation between the customs offices of Cuba and the Soviet Union was signed today in Havana. The objective of the bilateral agreement is cooperation in the international control of customs. The document was signed by Oscar Carreno, director general of Cuban Customs, and his Soviet counterpart Yuriy Nikolayevich Primerov, who expressed satisfaction with the successful relations between the two customs offices. He also stressed the technical level achieved by Cuban Customs, which he said is now planning to use a computerized control system.

CAMACHO AGUILERA RECEIVES SOVIET DELEGATION

FL190058 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Valentin Ivanovich Davydov, first deputy chief of the Transport and Communications Department of the CPSU Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him have visited the headquarters of the party provincial committee in City of Havana Province. Julio Camacho Aguilera, Politburo member and party first secretary in the province, welcomed them. The visitors discussed transportation and communications with Aldo Alvarez, member of the Executive Bureau in the province.

1985-87 CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SPAIN

FL190227 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Today, Cuba and Spain signed the agreement of the Second Session of the Cuban-Spanish Joint Commission of Cultural and Education Cooperation for the period 1985-87. Omar Mendoza, director of press, information, and cultural relations at the Foreign Ministry, and Mr Miguel Angel (Cariero), director general of cultural relations of the Spanish Foreign Ministry, signed the document.

PROTOCOL SIGNED AT CEMA MICROPROCESSING MEETING

FL191346 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] The sixth CEMA provisional work group on microprocessing technology, which met for 5 days in Havana, has signed its final protocol. Representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union signed the document which reported the work which had been done in this field and future projects which would be conducted.

RAUL CASTRO OFFICIATES, ATTENDS VARIOUS EVENTS

Inaugurates MTT Training Center

FL190207 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the party Central Committee and FAR minister, today inaugurated the provincial education center for the Territorial Troops Militia [MTT] in Havana Province, which will bear the name First Commander (Lizardo Provenza Sanchez). With a capacity of 720 MTT members, the center is equipped with the necessary items for combat training.

Attends Closing Speleologist Meeting

FL191410 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the party's Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has attended the closing meeting of the symposium held on the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Speleology Association of Cuba.

Presides Over Academic Symposium

FL212010 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1245 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Presided over by Army General Raul Castro, FAR minister, the closing ceremony has been held in the FAR Universal Hall for the 45th anniversary symposium of the Cuban Teleological Society, where Dr Sara (Izalguet) gave the opening speech. [passage indistinct]

ATOMIC ENERGY HEAD ON PEACEFUL USE EXPLORATION

PA192352 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] During a meeting of the Executive Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs to evaluate the results of 1984, Fidel Castro Diaz Balart, executive secretary of Cuba's Atomic Energy Commission, said: The results of our work in 1984 indicate that Cuba during the next 5-year period Cuba will be ready to initiate work that will determine our coming of age in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Castro Diaz stressed that at this time when the country is making efforts to improve its economy the sector related to the peaceful use of atomic energy should pay utmost attention to important tasks such as automation, the growing use of computers, the training of technicians, and the investigation into activities related to defense.

He finally reported that the 48th meeting of the CEMA permanent commission for the peaceful use of atomic energy will be held in Havana in 1985, as well as the exposition on nuclear instruments of the International Economic Unity [Union Economica Internacional].

CDB CHIEF SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENTS WITH IDB

FL182108 Bridgetown CANA in English 1532 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 17, CANA -- The president of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), William Demas, today signed three loan agreements with the Washington-based Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for more than 28 million dollars (U.S.), bank sources here said. In one instance the CDB is borrowing 20 million dollars (U.S.) for onlending to its more developed member countries and for some subprojects with high financial returns in the less developed countries [LDC].

Another agreement was for five million dollars (U.S.) to be onlent as special funds resources to finance multisectoral global credit subprogrammes in the LDC's and Guyana. Under the third pact the CDB will benefit from a nonreimbursable technical cooperation agreement of 3.37 million dollars (U.S.) for institutional strengthening and preinvestment activities to public and private sector investors in the CBD's borrowing member countries.

DOMINICA

LABOR PARTY FORMED FROM UDLP-DLP MERGER

FL181410 Bridgetown CANA in English 1634 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Jan 17, CANA -- With Dominica preparing for general elections by October this year, a new political group was launched here today to mount the main challenge to Prime Minister Eugenia Charles' ruling Dominica Freedom Party (DFP). The Labour Party of Dominica (LPD) is a merger of the United Dominica Labour Party (UDLP), led by one-time Finance Minister Michael Douglas, and the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) of former Prime Minister Oliver Seraphine.

Former DFP communications and works minister, Henry Dyer, who joined ranks with the opposition after his dismissal by Prime Minister Charles two years ago, is also involved in the new party, a statement issued by Douglas, Seraphine, and Dyer said. Under the agreement, Douglas will lead the LPD with Seraphine as his first deputy and Dyer as the second.

The party will hold its first public meeting here next week at which its candidates for the election will be named, the statement said.

Prime Minister Charles' DFP has a 16-5 majority in the House of Assembly. The emergence of the new group followed several months of discussions involving the three politicians. The leftist Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM) was also involved in the talks but no mention was made of it in today's statement. The LPD said it had decided not to contest the Paix Bouche constituency which is currently held by independent member of Parliament, Jenner Armour, a former acting head of state. The party has pledged to promote national unity, the statement said.

GRENADA

COMMISSION TO STUDY AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

FL192000 Bridgetown CANA in English 1637 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 19, CANA -- Grenada's six-week-old coalition government has identified all members of a proposed commission to study and recommend amendments to the country's constitution and the task should begin shortly, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has announced.

He said government, one of whose election campaign promises was to review the Constitution, would be getting assistance for its work from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation and the Guyana-based Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat. He did not specify the size of the commission or the nationalities of its members but said some were from abroad.

The Constitution, which was promulgated after the island gained independence from Britain in 1974, was suspended by the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) after the March 13, 1979 revolution. With the fall of the revolution in the October 1983 bloody political unrest that saw the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, several sections of the Constitution, including those dealing with the prime minister, the governor general, and the judiciary were brought back into force.

STUDENTS ALLOWED TO ACCEPT CUBAN SCHOLARSHIPS

FL181934 Bridgetown CANA in English 1521 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 17, CANA -- Education Minister George McGuire said today that Grenada's six-week-old government would allow nationals to decide for themselves whether to accept scholarships that might be offered by Cuba. The government...would not go out of the way to debar any student who wishes to go to Cuba to study, he told CANA.

McGuire said that the question of Cuban scholarships should be seriously considered by students who are contacted, given the political scenario coupled with the fact that there might be problems with the acceptability of the degrees obtained in Cuban institutions.

Under the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Grenada was Cuba's closest ally in the English-speaking Caribbean with Havana offering the island more scholarships than all of the other territories combined. But after the October 25, 1983 U.S.-led invasion of Grenada to topple a Marxist regime that had seized power in a bloody coup in which Bishop was executed, relations with Cuba were Sir Paul Scoon expelled all Cuban diplomats on the island with the exception of Charge d'Affairs Gaston Diaz. [sentence as received]

Sir Paul also called on Grenadians studying in Cuba to return home with a promise that the new rulers on the island would assist them in obtaining other educational opportunities in countries friendly with Grenada. An estimated 35 Grenadian students returned but over 70 remained in Cuba. The government was left without files on the number of students studying in Cuba because a fire during the invasion destroyed the office of the prime minister where they were believed to have been kept.

In the aftermath of the invasion, a charity foundation formed by two former close political colleagues of Bishop in memory of the late prime minister announced that seven Grenadian students left the island to study in Cuba based on offers made by Havana to the foundation.

On these Grenadians who choose to remain in Cuba to complete their studies, McGuire said the government cannot give them any assurances of guaranteed jobs on their return because of high unemployment estimated at 30 to 50 per cent. He said the government would continue its efforts to seek scholarships for students who returned from Cuba. Two weeks ago, 21 Grenadians who abandoned their studies in Havana left here for the United States to take up scholarships at college and university level sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (U.S. AID).

JAMAICA

SEAGA: LOCAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD 'THIS YEAR'

FL181844 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] RJR news wishes to correct a news item broadcast this morning regarding the statement from Prime Minister Seaga about the holding of local government elections this year. At the Jamaica House news conference yesterday, Mr Seaga said:

[Begin Seaga -- recording in progress] ...June 30, at the end of June. That is the period to which the law was extended. Obviously local government elections will be this year, but I can't tell you exactly what time that will be. Even if I knew I wouldn't say. [end recording]

That was Prime Minister Seaga at the news conference yesterday responding to questions about the likely time of the local government elections which he said would be held this year.

HOTEL CANCELLATIONS 'SERIOUS' DUE TO RIOTING

FL191200 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Jamaican police say it was quite on the island yesterday and that roads blocked in the violence that claimed the lives of at least five Jamaicans earlier this week are now open. Tourists stranded when flights were canceled because of the disturbances crowded ticket counters in Kingston trying to get home. The chief of the Caribbean Hotel Association says hotel cancellations because of the violence are serious.

Meanwhile, Jamaica is plotting ways to preserve its tourist industry. Tourism Minister High Hart says a media plan in the works now will show that the tourists who stayed in Jamaica during this week's violence over the price of gasoline were not frightened or affected in any way. Also, more tour operators and travel agents will be brought to Jamaica to see conditions themselves.

BASIC FOODS IN SHORT SUPPLY AT MONTEGO BAY

FL181944 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] There is now a shortage of basic food items in Montego Bay. This had been feared for the past few weeks. Future market and wholesale operators report that they are unable to understand the reason for the shortages. They are still trying to obtain from their suppliers the causes. Some of the food tiems in very short supply are sugar, rice, and flour. There is speculation in the retail service that there will be an increase in the price of flour before the end of the month. It is reported that the long failure of government to invest in Jamaica's farmers (?will cease) in an effort to match the levels [word indistinct]. The shortage of sugar has been attributed to the low crop of sugar, however they cannot account for the shortage of rice.

JAMAICAN DOLLAR LOSES 6 PERCENT IN VALUE

FL182030 Bridgetown CANA in English 2006 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 18, CANA -- the Jamaican dollar has lost six per cent following Thursday's exchange rate fixing currency auction conducted by the Central Bank. From today banks are buying the Jamaican dollar at J4.96 dollars and as stipulated by the regulations, selling at J5 dollars, the rate at which the auction cleared. The rates are three Jamaican cents higher than the previous auction a week earlier. Normally, the auctions are held twice weekly, on Tuesday's and Thursdays. But yesterday's was the first for this week as protest demonstrations against gas price increases shut down Kingston on Tuesday and Wednesday. There was U.S. 2 million dollars for auction by the Central Bank against total demand of U.S. 7.8 million dollars. Some U.S. 200,000 dollars worth of bids were disqualified.

FINANCE MINISTER GREENIDGE PRESENTS 1985 BUDGET

FL191930 Bridgetown CANA in English 1456 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 19, CANA -- Guyana ended 1984 with a 434 million dollar (one Guy dollar: 22 cents U.S.) trade deficit, but the economy produced real growth -- two per cent -- for the first time in four years, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge has told parliament here. Notwithstanding all the difficulties, including that of access to financial resources, Guyana's gross domestic product [GDP] grew by two per cent in real terms, making 1984 the first year of positive real growth since 1980, Greenidge said as he presented government's 1985 budget. The budget envisages a current account shortfall of 392 million dollars, revenue is projected at 642 million dollars and expenditures at 1,034 million.

Greenidge said Guyana's exports this year were expected to reach 1,170 million dollars compared with 914 million in 1984. The main contributors to this performance would be bauxite, with 505 million dollars, sugar, with 287 million, and rice, 105 million dollars. With imports in fiscal year 1985 estimated at 1,850 million dollars -- a 37 per cent rise on the 1,348 million dollars of 1984 -- Guyana would have a 680-million dollar trade deficit, the finance minister said.

Greenidge said the accent in 1985 will be on inputs for production and he forecast that GDP -- the total value of all goods and services produced by Guyana -- should achieve the level of 1,600 million dollars, as compared with 1,410 million in 1984, representing another year of real growth of an order slighly in excess of two percent.

In the area of taxation, an estimated 15,000 Guyanese who have television sets will have to pay an annual licence fee of 200 dollars. The owner of the only TV transmitting system here -- a small makeshift operation on the right bank of the Demerara River -- will have to pay an annual fee of 40,000 dollars. Greenidge also announced that Guyana's hundreds of taxi drivers must now pay 100 dollars a month for taxi stickers.

In a pre-budget statement the minister had said he would pave the way for an even distribution of the tax burden.

Envisages Increased Trade

FL191915 Bridgetown CANA in English 1905 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 19, CANA -- This year will see Guyana cultivating closer trading relations with socialist bloc states in a move to stimulate export earnings, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge has announced. Presenting government's 1985 budget in parliament here, Greenidge identified nine countries in particular: the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, Bulgaria, East Germany, Cuba, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Brazil.

There was a need, the minister said, to rapidly and significantly increase Guyana's export earnings, which totalled 914 million dollars (one Guy dollar: 22 cents U.S.) in 1984. This can be satisifed, he said, by stepping up sales of traditional products and diversifying the composition of the country's exports, with greater emphasis on non-traditional goods. Both of these initiatives can be enhanced by the search for geographically new markets, the finance minister said.

The solution lay in marrying our needs with those of friendly nations, which implies the forging of mutually beneficial trading relations with those nations, a move which may run counter to our historical predispostions and traditions, Greenidge said. Those trading relations should be characterized by inflows of equipment, technology, and inputs for production, and buy-back or outflow of product by way of repayment, he said.

Greenidge projected Guyana's export earnings in 1985 at 1,170 million dollars, a 28 per cent increase over last year's. He expected three key sectors of the economy, bauxite, sugar, and rice to account for 77 percent of this income. According to official figures, the Guyana economy recorded two per cent economic growth in 1984 -- the first increase in gross domestic product in four years -- and Greenidge said he expected a similar performance this year. The 1985 budget projects current expenditures of 1,034 million dollars and revenue of 642 million dollars, producing a 392-million dollar deficit.